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Saddam sends message to emir of Qatar

DUBAI (R) — President Saddam Hussein of Iraq has sent a message to the emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, on Arab developments and bilateral ties, the Qatari news agency said on Monday. The agency gave no details of the message. This was the first announced contact between the two countries since the defection to Jordan last week by Lieutenant General Hussein Kamel Hassan, President Saddam's son-in-law, and a number of other senior aides. Qatar is the only Gulf Arab country to restore diplomatic ties with Baghdad since the 1991 Gulf war in which Iraqi forces were driven out of Kuwait. Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Saeed Al Sahaf has visited Qatar three times this year, and Qatar's finance minister, Sheikh Mohammad Ben Khalifa Al Thani, visited Baghdad in July in what was believed to be the first visit by a Gulf Arab minister since the Gulf war.

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King: This is the right time for change in Iraq

Monarch, in interview with Israeli newspaper, voices hope that change will be for the better for Iraqi people

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein said in comments published on Monday it was "the right time for change" in Iraq and expressed hope that the change will be for the better for the people of Iraq.

"This is the right time for change, but it's not possible to determine (when it will happen). If a change will be made, it will only be a change for the good," the King said in an interview with Israel's Yediot Ahronot daily published on Monday.

King Hussein granted asylum last week to a group of Iraqis that included Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel Hassan, mastermind of Iraq's military programmes, his brother and two of President Saddam Hussein's daughters, to whom they are married.

At a news conference at the Royal Palace on Saturday, Gen. Hussein appealed for the overthrow of the Baghdad government and hinted that he might be Iraq's future leader.

King Hussein said he granted the asylum out of humanitarian rather than political motives. He said he hoped the affair would improve the situation for Iraqis.

"I think that what happened is tantamount to a shock, and I hope that this move will ensure the begin-

ning of a new era, and a new life for the Iraqi people," the newspaper quoted King Hussein as saying in the interview, conducted by Semander Perry.

King Hussein said he had not been in touch with Gen. Hassan for many years, but that three or four weeks ago the Iraqi stopped over in Amman en route to Russia.

In the meeting, Gen. Hassan drew a gloomy picture of the situation in Iraq, King Hussein said. "He had enough of the way in which his country is being run, enough of the illusions that are being spread," King Hussein told Yediot Ahronot.

"This man was very upset by the errors that were made by the leadership in his country... especially by the oppression and violation of civil rights," the Monarch said.

King Hussein said he told Gen. Hassan it was time Iraq joined those seeking peace in the Middle East and that Iraq's leaders had led their people into unnecessary adventures, such as the invasion of Kuwait and the lengthy war with Iran.

"I definitely have the impression that he is showing openness and readiness for change in his outlook," the King said of Gen. Hassan.

King Hussein said he had not been in touch with Presi-



King Hussein of Jordan, either by telephone or other means, since the Gulf war. He confirmed, however, that since the defections, President Saddam had sent him a telegram congratulating him on his 43rd anniversary on the throne.

The King said he would address the Jordanian people on the issue soon.

Following are some of the comments made by the King in the interview:

Of the defection: "I think that it might have been a family crisis, only on an individual level for a long time as far as we know. But in different gatherings of the family, cabinet meetings and of the

party, he understood that what's going on does not lead to anywhere, and then I suppose he took the decision. I personally did not have contacts with him, I did not see him, I have not seen him for many years. I know that during this terrible war between Iraq and Iran, he had a role in a rank of an officer, and he managed to do wonders.

"I did see him a few weeks ago when he was on his way back from Russia he did stop here and he got me a message. I got the impression how terrible the conditions were in Iraq, the need for alleviating the sufferings this war is in contrast to what I heard from officials who had come the day before even after the episode. I did suggest there is a need to review the situation. This was the nature of the message which I was meant to carry to the U.S. president, and that first of all they had to live up to their commitments and apply the rules set by Security Council totally and quickly. At the same time that we need... to think of how Iraq can be part of the peace process in the region. Iraq is a very important country and obviously the concern has always been for the Iraqi people. Strategically Iraq is very important in terms of their past, present and future (and) of the resources avail-

able. Within the conversation I spoke of that the new peace in the area; how it enabled us to recover our land, water and rights...

"We have to face challenges and we have to take the risks over what we believe in. We cannot speak of human rights here and keep closed eyes to that fact that in Iraq that there is no respect for human rights.

"Let me speak of democracy here and turn a blind eye to that fact that it is absent in Iraq and we turn a blind eye to the sufferings."

"Eventually they came here and they were looking for a solution to the problem and a chance to meet with the family and I told them that his people are their family here.

"About Hussein Kamel I believe he is a very bright man and he has his capabilities and abilities for the past many years in his country.

"I really do not know what is happening at this stage, and we cannot be possibly responsible for other leaders, and, unfortunately, soldiers cannot always be responsible for their leaders. But as far as the man is concerned, I think he loves his country."

(Continued on page 11)

Soames ends visit with focus on Bosnia and Iraq situation

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — British Minister of State for the Armed Forces Nicholas Soames left Amman for Saudi Arabia on Monday after conveying to His Majesty King Hussein a message from Prime Minister John Major over the situation in former Yugoslavia and the recent developments in Iraq.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King reiterated to Mr. Soames Jordan's "position that calls for a consolidation of efforts by the international community to end the Bosnian tragedy and the suffering of the Bosnian people."

Mr. Soames told a press conference before departure from Amman that he discussed with Jordanian officials the issue of the defection to Jordan of former Iraqi Minister of Industry Hussein Kamel Hassan and his wife, daughter of President Saddam Hussein. But he said he did not contact Lieutenant-General Hassan.

The defection "will greatly damage the Iraqi regime," Mr. Soames said. It is an "extremely significant event," he said.

A British official accompanying Mr. Soames said the defection of Gen. Hassan along with his brother and his wife, also a daughter of President Saddam, represented a "substantial blow" to the Iraqi regime.

The defection struck at the heart (of the Iraqi regime). At least 70 per cent of (President Saddam's) family has abandoned him, said Andrew Green, under-secretary for Middle East affairs at the British Foreign Office.

Mr. Soames indicated Britain would come to the help of Jordan in the event of Iraq retaliating militarily against Jordan's decision to grant asylum to Gen. Hassan.

"Britain's record speaks for itself," he said.

Mr. Green said it would take at least several months

before the sanctions on Iraq are lifted.

Mr. Soames, who was accompanied on the visit by Air Chief Marshal Sir William Warman, said he came to Jordan to discuss with the King efforts to solve the Bosnian crisis and "get his views and guidance on how we should proceed."

In an arrival statement Sunday, he also said the personal message also deals with the "situation in Iraq."

Mr. Soames said that a "window of opportunity" for solving the conflict in former Yugoslavia has emerged as a result of the "Croatian advances that have altered the map" and the latest U.S. initiative to end the hostilities. The American initiative, which has the full support of Britain, has incentives for all sides, Mr. Soames said.

During a meeting with journalists at the residence of the British ambassador early Monday, Mr. Soames sought to defend the British and Western approach towards the conflict in Bosnia as the only realistic path for ending the war that has pitted the Serbs against Bosnian Muslims and Croats.

The West has come under fire from Arab and Muslim countries for failing to take effective measures to end what many described as the genocide of the Bosnian Muslims at the hands of the Serbs.

The latest Serb attacks on areas declared safe havens by the United Nations fuelled Arab and Muslim anger at the West and the United Nations mission, which has been castigated for its "impotence" in checking the Serb aggression.

"We share the frustration" over the continued war in Bosnia, said Mr. Soames, who arrived in Jordan Sunday on the first leg of a four-country tour that includes Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Morocco. But he said that there is "a bit of misunderstanding" in the Arab

(Continued on page 11)



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker on Monday addresses a closed session of the Lower House of Parliament (Petra photo)

Jordan-Iraq ties normal, Amman wants to retain them, Sharif Zeid tells Parliament

'Visits of Peay and Soames, military exercises unrelated to Iraqi defection'

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Prime Minister, Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, yesterday sought to assure parliamentarians that granting asylum to Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel Hassan does not signal any shift of policy towards Iraq and said that Jordan would not be a base from which the Iraqi opposition can wage a campaign against the Baghdad government.

Despite the assurances of the prime minister, some members of the Lower House of Parliament remained sceptical, with opposition deputies saying that many queries were left unanswered.

In his statement to the

House, Sharif Zeid said Jordan's policy towards Iraq had not changed. He said Jordan did not have prior knowledge of the arrival of Gen. Hassan, son-in-law of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, his brother and their wives. He also denied that their defection was related to the Arab-Israeli peace process and said it was purely based on internal feuds.

Ruling out the possibility of any confrontation between Iraq and Jordan due to the presence of Gen. Hassan here, the prime minister assured parliamentarians that there were no problems with Iraq and that contacts were still going on between the two countries.

There is no reason why the relations between the two

countries be sour," he said. "There is no problem between us and Iraq, and contacts are maintained through the Iraqi embassy."

Sharif Zeid said that Jordan continued to be the only outlet for Iraq, and Iraqi officials and citizens.

"There are clear instructions on borders to allow travellers to pass to or via Jordan. It is a clear policy... but who rules Iraq is not part of our responsibility," he said.

Sharif Zeid denied that he had obtained information about Iraqi military secrets and expressed belief that Gen. Hassan would not reveal Iraq's state secrets.

(Continued on page 11)

Palestinians vow revenge for killing by settlers

PLO leaders gather in Tunis to discuss partial autonomy accord

DURA AL QARA (Agencies) — Palestinians vowed Monday to avenge the death of a West Bank man who was shot to death in a clash with Jewish settlers, and police arrested several suspects in the killing.

The arrest came after photographs published in newspapers Monday showed a settler with an M-16 automatic rifle taking direct aim as Palestinian demonstrators ransacked a settler outpost on a West Bank hilltop Sunday.

Israel radio said an autopsy showed that the Palestinian was killed by shots from an

M-16. "At this point it looks as if no shots were fired by Palestinians, so the obvious conclusion is that the guy was hit from bullets fired by one of the Israelis," said Israeli police spokesman Eric Bar-Chen.

Three Israeli suspects were arrested and ballistic tests were carried out as investigations continued, police said.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leaders meanwhile gathered in Tunisia to discuss whether to back Yasser Arafat's latest agreement with Israel on expanding Palestinian autonomy in the

West Bank. The deal, reached last week in the Egyptian resort of Taba between the PLO chief and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, was approved Sunday in the Israeli cabinet by a 15-1 vote.

Mr. Arafat needs the endorsement of the PLO Executive Committee, still based in Tunis, to comply with PLO statutes and also to show he has broad backing for the deal.

Hardliners charge the accord leaves too much land under Israeli control.

(Continued on page 11)

Fighting rages in Bosnia; U.S. pushes peace plan

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian government troops launched a ground offensive against Serb separatists on Monday while international peace envoys pressed on with initiatives aimed at ending four years of bloodshed in former Yugoslavia.

Underscoring the savagery of the ethnic wars, Bosnian Serbs began a fresh round of tit-for-tat civilian expulsions in the northern town of Banja Luka.

"This is the final touch to a three-year-old barbarity that will make the name of Banja Luka go down in history as the heart of darkness," said

U.N. refugee agency spokesman Kris Janowski.

Bosnian Serbs were expelling Roman Catholic Croats, and Muslims were expected to be next, following the wholesale flight of 150,000 Serb refugees from Croatia last week.

Perhaps as many as 60,000 Croats and Muslims could still be in Banja Luka and facing expulsion, compared with a pre-war non-Serb population of more than 500,000, U.N. officials said.

Bosnian government troops fought separatist Serb forces around Donji Vakuf in central Bosnia and the Un-

ited Nations said battle noise suggested infantry clashes were under way.

"Fighting is still going on, and we assess the drop in artillery fire together with the increase in small arms and machinegun fire to mean a ground offensive is under way," said Major Greb Thompson, a U.N. spokesman.

In other fighting, the area around the historic Adriatic coast city of Dubrovnik was rocked by explosions throughout the night and Serb shelling caused extensive damage, Croatian radio said.

Turkish court to decide if Kurd report 'criminal'

ANKARA (R) — A Turkish court is set to decide this week whether to press charges over a report on the thorny Kurdish issue, but analysts say the document has already caused so much rancour that its value may be lost whatever the verdict.

The report, commissioned by the Union of Chambers and Trade Bourses (TOBB), said support for Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) rebels would weaken if the government heeded Kurds' social and economic grievances and tolerated pro-Kurdish sentiments.

Ankara's state security court is reviewing the report to see if its mention of possible federation with Kurds and the use of Kurdish as a second official language constitutes a crime.

"You shall see in the next few days that we decide," court prosecutor Nuh Mete Yüksel told Reuters. "I can say no more."

He said earlier that charges could be brought — he did not say against whom — under Article 8 of a tough anti-terror law, which bans propaganda threatening of unity of the state.

Western analysts said the uproar over the report had again revealed just how hard it was to initiate serious debate on the status of Turkey's Kurds. More than 17,500 people have killed in the PKK's 11-year insurgency.

"If anyone was so stupid as to decide charges could be... brought it would possibly be the silliest thing the Turkish administration has done this year," a Western diplomat said.

"It would play incredibly badly in Europe," Turkey, hoping the European Parliament will ratify a lucrative customs union deal with Ankara in October, is being monitored closely by

Europe for signs of democratic progress.

Scrapping or amending Article 8 has been cited as a condition for the European Parliament's customs union approval.

Prime Minister Tansu Ciller managed last month to bludgeon through parliament a package of reforms to Turkey's 1962 military-era constitution, and promises further progress.

But diplomats say a serious debate about Turkey's problems — necessary for serious reform — has yet to materialise.

"The usual gut instinct reaction of the Turkish ruling classes is that the issue is sacrosanct and should not be discussed," said a European diplomat. "But it is high time this discussion received a wider airing."

The TOBB report came with the hope it would be taken seriously due to its mainstream patrons. Liberals and intellectuals pleaded in newspaper columns for calm and constructive discussion.

But instead, the report and its author Dogu Ergil — a respected Ankara professor — have been lambasted by conservative politicians, journalists and security officials as biased towards the Kurds and bent on breaking up the country.

"Turkey's most crucial problems have not been evaluated scientifically up to now," Mr. Ergil told Reuters.

"The issue at hand is all the problems of instability, economy, democratisation and national unity. We opened this concept to discussion. But everyone panicked without reading the report."

Even the Erbakan, the PKK's political arm, said in a statement last week that the report "reflected the logic of the state."

"If even they slam it I suggest the report is not far off the mark," one Western analyst said. "It's what (politicians) don't want to hear but what they know to be true — what does come as a surprise is that it was ever produced, especially given TOBB's closeness to Ciller."

Some people suggest that Ms. Ciller was behind the report, which she hoped would pave the way for further democratic reform.

Betselem: Israelis killed 100 Palestinians since intifada

The Jerusalem Post

ISRAELIS have killed 100 Palestinians in the territories since the start of the intifada in 1987, according to the Betselem human rights organisation.

The following is a partial chronology of incidents in which settlers shot and killed or wounded Palestinians from April 1991 to September 1994, as compiled by Betselem:

September 1994: Halhoul man killed after being shot by settlers who said they had been stoned while driving through the village.

April 1994: A Palestinian woman was fatally wounded in her home north of Jerusalem by a stray bullet fired by a settler shooting in the air at stonethrowers.

February 1994: Tomb of the Patriarchs massacre by Kiryat Arba resident Baruch Goldstein. Twenty-nine killed.

December 1993: Three Arab labourers killed near Hebron. Kach claims responsibility.

December 1993: Arab from eastern Jerusalem riding in a taxi killed as settler opens fire when taxi did not heed calls to halt.

December 1993: Palestinian tractor driver killed in the Hebron area.

March 1993: Settler shoots terrorist who had already been captured and tied up, killing him.

January 1993: Gaza youth killed as Jewish resident shoots at group stoning him.

June 1991: Settler kills shepherd in land dispute near Hebron.

April 1991: Palestinian's body found near Eilon Moreh. He was killed by a settler who was involved in another Palestinian's death three months earlier.



DENIED ENTRY: An Israeli soldier orders a Palestinian family to leave the Ere crossing area after the Israeli army announced that the Gaza Strip would remain sealed off from Israel until Monday dawn. The closure was imposed on Thursday in what Israel described as a measure to prevent Palestinian militant attacks inside Israel (AFP photo).

'Libya herding Palestinians into border camps'

ALGIERS (AFP) — A Palestinian representative in Algiers has accused Libyan authorities of rounding up Palestinians working in Libya under very difficult humanitarian conditions with a view to expulsion.

In a statement, Adli Sadek, the Palestinian charge d'affaires in Algiers, said Libyan authorities were conducting a campaign against Palestinians working in Libya, regrouping them in border camps near Egypt "in anticipation of their expulsion."

He said he had "postponed for a long time the announcement of this campaign against the Palestinians in the hope that the (Libyan) officials themselves give up this hostile behaviour which has no justification," the statement said.

Libyan authorities have said that these measures were taken following the autonomy accord signed in 1993 between Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation, Sadek said.

The Palestinian official dismissed as unconvincing the Libyan explanation for the "regroupment of Palestinian families in the Sahara in very difficult humanitarian conditions." The statement did not specify what these were.

Mr. Sadek said the measures were part "of a plan aiming to tighten the net around the Palestinians at a regional level" and appealed to Libya to "respect the minimum of rules of conduct between brothers in this difficult phase of the history of the Arab Nation."

Libyan television rejected Sunday accusations by Cairo that Tripoli was expelling Egyptian workers.

It cited the Egyptian charge d'affaires in Libya as saying that Egyptian workers were receiving "close attention from the Libyan authorities."

The Egyptian envoy, according to Libyan television, said that Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa had spoken by telephone to Libyan Minister for Unity Jomaa Al-Fazzani in order to "clear up any misunderstanding."

The Egyptian head of customs at the Sallum border post, Mohammad Al Adl, told AFP on Thursday that some 2,500 Egyptians had been thrown out of Libya in the preceding 48 hours.

Tripoli said Friday it had taken no measures against the Egyptians.

"There are nearly 1.5 million Egyptian workers (in Libya) cooperating with their Libyan brothers in developing the country," Mr. Fazzani said then.

Mr. Musa said in a statement Friday that his ministry was "in contact with Libyan officials in order to stop the expulsions of Egyptian citizens." He added that Mr. Fazzani had admitted to the expulsions, saying that all the Egyptians came from one region in Libya, which he did not identify.

Mr. Fazzani said their expulsion "was linked to situation in this region." Mr. Musa said.

Between 800,000 and 900,000 Egyptians work in Libya.

Egyptian police sources at Sallum said the expulsions had been decided for security reasons following unrest last June at Benghazi, in the east of the country, which Tripoli attributed to Islamic militants "who had infiltrated the country from Egypt and Sudan."

Extremists impose 'Islamic' law in Egypt's jails

CAIRO (AFP) — Muslim extremists in Egyptian prisons set up mini-feudalisms which impose their own Islamic law and rule over other prisoners with an iron hand, "repentant" fundamentalists say.

"Each group has an 'emir' (prince) who forces his vision of Islam and anyone who doesn't obey," Ibrahim Ahmad Mohammad, 37, told AFP after his release from al-Torah prison in south Cairo.

Mr. Mohammad was one of 116 prisoners released on Saturday in Cairo after "repenting" from extremist ideology.

The Interior Ministry has released some 826 repentant fundamentalists since early 1994.

The ministry considers these former extremists, many of whom have been interviewed on state television, a strong media weapon to discredit Muslim militants waging a three-year armed

campaign against the government. Islamists make up the majority of the 20,000 political prisoners in Egypt, human rights groups say. The ministry disputes the number, saying 3,000 people are held under emergency laws.

Militants are usually kept in separate wings from other prisoners, and distinct factions, such as the Gamaa Islamiyah and Jihad, are also kept apart to prevent violence between them.

At the same time the "emirs" have carved out their own territories within the individual cells, the former prisoners said.

"There are continual disputes over religion between the... Islamist groups, which led me to wonder if they really understood anything," said Ali Al Demerdash, a former member of the Jihad.

"One group says you have to fast two months

if you kill someone by accident, while another says that doesn't keep you from paradise because your intention was to serve Islam," said Ali Ahmad Ali, formerly with the Gamaa.

More than 840 people have died in the wave of militant violence since March 1992.

Prison emirs keep up discipline among their followers by ordering them to "pray for hours and attend regular religious lessons," said Tareq Mansour, 20, who quit Jihad's military wing Talah Al Fateh while in prison.

The emirs distribute food in their cell as they wish and impose tasks such as cleaning the cell to those who displease them or prisoners who have not joined their group.

"When I refused to bend to them, they prevented me from sleeping on a bed," said Gamil Eddin Fuad, 37.

"In my cell, 12 people wanted to announce their penance but eight of them refused in the end, fearing

reprisals from the leaders," said Mr. Mohammad.

The emirs told us that if they could, they would have killed us, and that they hoped we would be executed by their collaborators outside prison," he added.

Mr. Mansour said he knew of one prisoner whose tongue was partially cut off by fellow prisoners after repenting.

In 1994 militant groups announced a "fatwa" (religious ruling) branding those who repent as "apostates." But to date there have been no reports of murders of participants in the "repentance" programme.

Prison officials bring in government sheikhs to provide religious teaching for prisoners who express an interest in repenting.

Upon their release, the Interior Ministry gives each repentant militant 200 Egyptian pounds (\$55). In 1994, it also promised to provide them jobs.

"The security services assured me that I'd get back my post in the electric company," Mr. Mohammad said.

Family of bomb suspect heads for New York trial

AMMAN (AP) — The parents of a suspect in the World Trade Centre bombing left Monday for New York to attend their son's trial.

Eyad Mahmoud Ismail Nijm, 24, has pleaded innocent to charges of participation in the Feb. 26, 1993 bombing of the New York skyscrapers in which six people were killed and 1,000 were injured.

U.S. authorities, who call the suspect Eyad Ismail, say he drove the van containing 545-kilogramme bomb into the underground garage of the World Trade Centre.

The trial begins Wednesday. "My son is insisting that he is innocent and we are confident in the fairness of the American judicial system," said Mr. Nijm's mother, Najla, before she boarded a New York-bound flight.

She told the Associated Press that her son had called on Thursday and "he sounded relaxed and confident that he will be acquitted."

She said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had helped her, her husband Mahmoud, and brother, Ali Nijm, obtain a one-year visa for the United States.

Mrs. Nijm said her husband had to sell his "small lathe shop to buy us the airplane tickets and get some cash to cover our expenses in the United States."

Mr. Nijm, a resident of the city of Jerash, was detained by authorities here Aug. 1 and was flown to the United States two days later.

His family and acquaintances said that he was fond of the United States and that he had no previous criminal record — an assessment supported by Jordanian authorities.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rafsanjani appoints brother as vice-president

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on Monday appointed his brother to the post of presidential chief of staff, officials said. Mohammad Hashemi, who will be one of Mr. Rafsanjani's seven vice-presidents, has previously served as first deputy foreign minister and the head of the state-run radio and television organisation. He replaces Hamid Mirzadeh, who was named Saturday as the new vice president in the charge of the budget and planning organisation after the resignation of Massoud Rahnghani-Zanjani. Mr. Rahnghani-Zanjani stepped down over his alleged opposition to the government's departure from free-market policies.

Muslims in Lebanon collect funds for Bosnia

SIDON (AFP) — Muslims in the southern port of city of Sidon have collected 15 million Lebanese pounds (about \$9,000) for Bosnian Muslims as part of a campaign launched last week. Collection boxes have been placed in mosques throughout Sidon and worshippers are encouraged to deposit donations after prayers, according to Sheikh Mohammad Selim Jallaleddin, the mufti of south Lebanon. The campaign was launched on August 8 to coincide with the anniversary of the birth of Prophet Mohammad and will last till the end of the month. Sheikh Jallaleddin also renewed an offer he had made two years ago to take in 100 Bosnian Muslim children at a Sidon orphanage.

Egypt's first female journalist dies at 81

CAIRO (AP) — Amina Al Saeed, Egypt's first woman journalist and a leading feminist, has died of cancer. She was 81. Saeed, who continued writing an advice column in the weekly magazine Al-Musawwar this year, died Sunday night in Cairo. She was considered Egypt's first female journalist, as a student at King Fouad I university in Cairo in 1932 and later as a professional after graduating in 1935. Saeed also was editor of Egypt's first magazine for women, Hawaa, which she founded in 1954. Throughout her 63-year career, she was a fervent proponent of women's rights and scolded the younger generation of women for not advancing the cause. "If contemporary Arab women are honest... they will recognise that they have not added anything to the efforts to those who have gone before and that they have not been part of any effort worth mentioning in advancing the feminist cause," she once wrote. Saeed contracted cancer several years ago. She is survived by two sons and a daughter. Her funeral was scheduled for Monday.

Sudanese celebrate capture of town

KHARTOUM (R) — Thousands of Sudanese marched through the streets of Khartoum on Monday to celebrate the reported capture by government troops of a rebel town on a key supply route near Uganda. Sudan said its army had taken Kaya at sunset on Saturday from the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), which held the small town for over six years. The march ended at the army's general command where First Vice-President Major-General Al Zubeir Mohammad Saleh told the crowds all rebel-held land would soon be liberated. The army's capture of Kaya was the first major offensive reported since the government and southern separatist rebels agreed to a ceasefire four months ago.

Greenpeace to highlight Turkish pollution

ISTANBUL (R) — Greenpeace said on Monday it would send a ship to a filthy bay on Turkey's Aegean coast to highlight the pollution there. The environmental group also hoped to rally support against French and Chinese nuclear testing during the August 16-20 stopover at the western Turkish port city of Izmir. A Greenpeace statement said. The Greenpeace ship Altair will stop at Izmir as part of a four-month tour through the Mediterranean, the statement said. Izmir Bay is considered by some environmentalists to be one of the most polluted in the Eastern Mediterranean area.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:30 Captain Planet
14:30 M.A.N.T.I.S.
15:00 Blue Heelers
16:00 Families
17:00
17:30 Children's Programme — Doug
17:30 Monty Python
17:30 Taratara
18:00 News in French
19:15 Fast Fun Rover
19:30 News in English
19:35 You Be Your Life
20:00 Pict Filles
20:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
21:15 True Blue
22:00 News in English
22:25 The Fire Next Time
23:30 New York Undercover
23:59 Grace Under Fire

PRAYER TIMES

04:30 Fajr
05:54 (Sunnah) Duha
12:40 Dhuhur
16:19 'Asr
19:26 Maghrib
20:59 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Switzerland, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terranova Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623641
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 624328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 694195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Relative hot weather conditions will prevail with winds northwesterly moderate to strong. It will be hot with winds southerly active and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 26/40
Dead Sea 20/37
Jordan Valley 25/40
Yesterday's high temperatures:

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman 33, Aqaba 41, Humidity readings: Amman 58 per cent, Aqaba 20 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Awad Al Hawamdeh 776655
Dr. Ramzi Mzawi 594788
Dr. Faysal Dabbas 791153
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad 846707
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asana pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 625672
Al Solan pharmacy 636730
Yusuf pharmacy 644945
Shneissan pharmacy 637660
Nairoukh pharmacy 625672
Najib pharmacy 847632

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Rescue 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 713121
Highway Police 943002
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Police Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 697467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 610230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 771111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussien Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeissan 664171/4
Shmeissan Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845843
Al-Musasher Hospital 66727/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/2
Al-Badr, J. Asrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marfa 9161715
Queen Alia Hospital 686100
Amal Hospital 607155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Gov. Hospital (09)983323
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)980732
IBRA:
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)900560
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)980732
IBRA:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)27275
The Al Naifees Hospital (02)27100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
04:10 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
06:00 Damascus (RJ)
06:15 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)
06:35 Amman (RJ)
06:35 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
06:35 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
06:35 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
06:35 Rhodes (add) (RJ)
06:35 London (RJ)
06:35 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)
06:35 Cairo, Alexandria (RJ)
06:35 Montreal (add) (RJ)
06:35 Madrid (RJ)
06:35 Vienna (OS)
06:35 Cairo (MS)
06:35 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
06:35 Munich (YP)
06:35 Riyadh (SV)
06:35 Bucharest (RO)
06:35 Rome (AZ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:00 Amman, Aqaba (RJ)
06:40 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
07:10 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
07:45 Detroit (add) (RJ)
08:00 Geneva, Brussels (GF)
08:30 Rhodes (add) (RJ)
08:30 Paris (RJ)
08:30 Cairo, Alexandria (RJ)
08:30 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
08:30 London (RJ)
08:35 Madrid (RJ)
08:35 Larnaca (RJ)
08:35 Jeddah (RJ)
08:35 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
08:35 Damascus (RJ)
08:35 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
08:35 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)
06:30 Damascus, Paris (AF)
06:45 Beirut (ME)
06:45 Cairo (MS)
06:45 Vienna (OS)
06:45 Abu Dhabi (GF)
06:45 Munich (YP)
06:45 Riyadh (SV)
06:45 Bucharest (RO)
06:45 Rome (AZ)

HIJAZ RAILWAY

Dep. Amman 8:00 every Monday

Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday

Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday

Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Uppercase price in fils per kg.

Apple 700/500
Banana 680
Banana (Mukammal) 620
Cabbage 120/80
Carrot 220/180
Cauliflower 320/220
Cucumbers (large) 180/100
Cucumbers (small) 300/200
Eggplant 170/100
Figs 120/80
Garlic 680/500
Grapes 400/300
Lemon 580/400
Marrow (large) 240/140
Marrow (small) 380/280
Mushrooms 120/70
Okra 750/600
Onion (dry) 200/100
Orange 480/300
Peas 480/300
Pepper (green) 250/100
Pepper (red) 250/100
Potato 380/280
Soybean 480/300
Sweet Melon 250/150
Tomato 120/80
Water Melon 130/70

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By Ica W.

Amman —

Energy and Resources... announced... container... Free Zone... ment of... posed as... The... radioactive... like that... industry and... said. "People... assured that... material in the... being properly... if possible... public" added... stressing that... are not of the... waste which... are trying to... "People should... that there are differ... of radioactive... Some are benefi... medicine for dia... radiography, th... try," said the... bid to demonst... container is not a... as a report in a... tabloid had portr... Mr. Darwazah... acknowledged that

* Iranian film

Abdul Hammed

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p.m.

* "The Maids"

Genet) starring

Royal Cultural

Theatre at 8:30

LEC

* Lecture (in Ar

"The Political F

Jerusalem - Rea

Alternatives" by

Salim at Abdul

Foundation at 6

NE

* McNeil-Lehrer

the American C

South Korean ship returns from N. Korean detention

2 Southern students attend rally in North

SEOUL (R) — A South Korean rice-aid ship returned home on Monday after being detained for a week in North Korea on spy charges, port officials said.

A Korea Maritime and Port Authority (KMPA) official said the 9,400-tonne Samsun Venus and its 21-men crew arrived at the southeastern port city of Pohang at 2:30 p.m. (0530 GMT).

"All crew are known to be in good health," he said. But in a development expected to raise tension on the eve of the 50th anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japanese rule, two Southern students defied the government to visit the North for a rally arranged by Pyongyang to mark the event.

Seoul has banned attendance at the rally in the Korean border village of Panmunjom.

The North had held the cargo ship and its crew, which docked in the port of Chongjin to unload 5,000 tonnes of free Southern rice, accusing a crew member of taking photographs illegally of the port and spying on the North.

Pyongyang released the ship on Sunday after three days of talks in Beijing during

which Seoul expressed regret over the incident, assured the North it would not happen again and promised to resume rice shipments.

By releasing the ship and its crew, North Korea has rescued a food aid deal with Seoul, but diplomats and political analysts said on Monday the episode had strained further ties between the cold war rivals.

"The incident further deepened mistrust between the North and I doubt their relations will change for the better in the near future," a Western diplomat said.

Under an accord signed in Beijing in June, South Korea is supplying 150,000 tonnes of free rice to the North to ease what Seoul says is a chronic food shortage and to improve ties. Half has already been shipped to the North.

A unification ministry spokesman said officials from the two Koreas made contact in Beijing but failed to set up a third round of talks on rice aid.

"But both sides agreed to negotiate further on this matter," the spokesman said.

A third round of talks on rice aid and other issues had been scheduled for last Thursday but was cancelled because of the row over the seized ship.

Earlier on Monday, a nationwide radical student group in the South said two women university students — Chong Min-Joo, 22, an architecture student and Lee Hye-Jong, 20, an accounting student — had arrived in Pyongyang via Beijing.

A spokesman for the group, Hanchongryon, told reporters the two women, both members, would attend a rally in Panmunjom on Tuesday making the 50th anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japanese occupation.

The South has banned the rally, saying any joint activities between North and South Korea should be arranged by government officials, an idea spurred by the Stalinist North.

The spokesman said many Hanchongryon students would try to attend the rally. He said Chong and Lee would not return to Seoul until October as they would travel around the North.

A Seoul government official said they would be charged upon their return home with violating the South's draconian national security law.

He said Hanchongryon leaders who had organised the trip to Pyongyang would also be charged.

N. Korea blasts peace plan

In another development Monday North Korea criticised a reported South Korean plan to offer it a peace treaty, saying the 1950-1953 Korean War armistice must be replaced by an agreement between North Korea and the United States.

"South Korean authorities... will reportedly bring forward an 'idea of peace mechanism' around Aug. 15," a North Korean foreign ministry spokesman said in a dispatch carried on the state-run Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), seen in Tokyo.

"This deserves no consideration because it is not helpful at all toward preservation of genuine peace on the Korean Peninsula. It is a trick to hinder the establishment of DPRK (North Korea)-proposed new peace mechanism."

South Korean media has reported Seoul's President Kim Young-Sam might formally propose signing a peace treaty with North Korea on Tuesday.



A South Korean man prepares to launch an egg at the Japanese embassy in Seoul Monday, the eve of the 50th anniversary of

S. Koreans protest outside Japanese embassy

SEOUL (R) — Hundreds of elderly South Koreans hurled eggs at Tokyo's embassy in Seoul Monday in an emotional protest on the eve of the 50th anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japanese occupation.

About 300 people, most of them from Southern Cholla province, demanded Japan's "sincere" apology and compensation for atrocities committed during World War II.

The protesters, including bereaved relatives of war victims and women forced to serve as sex slaves for imperial troops, accused former and incumbent Japanese government officials of trying to justify Japan's rule from 1910-45.

The protesters also gave a statement carrying their demands to an embassy official. They earlier took part in an anti-Japanese rally at a park in the centre of Seoul and then marched to the embassy.

At a separate rally at the same park, a group of South Korean religious leaders issued a demand that both the South Korean and Japanese governments take steps to aid those still suffering from Japan's atrocities.

War anniversary focus on possible Japanese apology

TOKYO (R) — Japan marks the 50th anniversary of its defeat in World War II on Tuesday with the focus on whether Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama will offer his country's first clear-cut apology for its wartime actions.

Mr. Murayama appeared over the weekend to make an unprecedented apology about the sufferings of British prisoners-of-war. But a leaked draft of a statement of remorse he will read on Tuesday suggests his words may fall short of the unequivocal, general apology sought by Asian victims of Japan's wartime brutality.

Emperor Akihito and Mr. Murayama will attend a government-sponsored service on Tuesday at the Budokan, or martial arts hall, just outside Tokyo's imperial palace, to pay their respects to pay their respects to Japan's war dead and offer pledges of peace.

The event is normally a quiet ceremony with muted comments about Japan's war role, but this year Mr. Murayama could break with tradition and offer a more direct statement of remorse over Japan's brutal wartime actions.

Mr. Murayama said in Nagasaki last Wednesday after an event marking the anniversary of the atomic

bombing there that the Aug. 15 statement would look back on Japan's wartime past and "renew our pledge never to engage in war again and make our utmost efforts to build peace."

A draft of Tuesday's statement apparently leaked to the Nihon Keizai Shimbun newspaper over the weekend reads:

"For a period in the past, our country adopted wrong policies and through aggression and colonial rule, caused severe pain and damage to many nations, especially in Asia."

"I offer my deepest condolences to the victims of this history, both at home and abroad."

"At the same time, we pledge to do away with this kind of self-righteous nationalism. The path of our country is to work for protecting the principles of peace and democracy and to respect international cooperation."

Government officials had no comment on the report.

In July, Mr. Murayama pushed through a parliamentary resolution to atone for Japan's war role, but the wording was "deep reflection," not "apology," inviting criticism from most Asian governments and commentators as being inadequate.

It was not until 1993 that a Japanese prime minister, Morihiro Hosokawa, clearly

described the war as "aggressive" and "wrong."

But last week, Mr. Murayama hinted he might have a more substantial message in the works.

Meeting former German President Richard von Weizsaecker in Tokyo, he complimented him on a 1985 speech in which he said "anyone who closes his eyes to the past is blind to the present."

Mr. Murayama himself caused a flap over the weekend with a letter he sent to British Prime Minister John Major.

In the letter, Mr. Murayama expressed "apology and deep reflection" for Japan's maltreatment of British prisoners-of-war, but the letter sparked a furore when officials said it was not meant as an apology.

Mr. Murayama must also reverse the tide of criticism his government has come under after remarks on the war by his education minister drew protests from China and both Koreas.

After his appointment Aug. 8, Education Minister Yoshinobu Shimamura told reporters it was a matter of opinion whether Japan's war and colonisation in Asia and the Pacific were aggressive.

Mr. Shimamura later apologised for what he called the misunderstanding over his remarks.

"Man can travel faster than speed of light"

LONDON (AFP) — A British astronomer has burned scientific orthodoxy on its head by suggesting space travellers could one day move faster than the speed of light. Dr. Ian Crawford, in the September issue of the Royal Astronomical Society's journal, challenges accepted thinking that faster-than-light travel is a physical impossibility — and strictly for the comic books. Conventional scientific thinking on the matter rests on Albert Einstein's proof that the mass of an object increases with its speed. But Crawford, of the University of London, takes a different line in his article. Some thoughts on the implications of Faster-Than-Light Interstellar Space Travel. He has boldly gone on record to say: "There are reasons for believing that FTL (faster-than-light) interstellar space travel may be consistent with the laws of physics. 'For many space exploration and colonisation projects that we might wish to undertake in the future, it would be a great help if space vehicles could travel faster than the speed of light. We simply do not know whether FTL travel is possible.'"

Japan lags in sex education

YOKOHAMA (R) — Sex education in Japan lags far behind the West and pressure on children to achieve could be damaging their future sexuality, a Japanese sexologist told an international conference. Sex education at Japanese schools is minimal and Japan has yet to establish a specialised research institute and does not have even one sexology programme, said Seiichi Matsumoto, one of the organisers of the 12th World Congress of Sexology. "Unfortunately, sexuality research is far behind that of other countries," he said.

Mr. Matsumoto said Japanese do not talk about sex as much as people in other developed countries and the Japanese were left to learn about sex from pornographic videos and the media. He added that the media provided "irresponsible and inflammatory images of sex" that "give women feelings of being insulted and men feelings of inferiority." Strong pressure to do well in Japan's competitive education system left students little time to play, Mr. Matsumoto said. What time children did have was often spent shut in their rooms playing video games, resulting in poor interacting skills which could damage their sexuality in the future, he added.

General makes millions in bonuses for arrests of Basques

MADRID (AFP) — A Civil Guard general suspected of involvement in his squad that killed Basque separatists made a fortune from bonuses paid by the government each time a commando group was arrested, a newspaper said Monday. General Enrique Rodriguez Galindo, former head of the Civil Guard in Spain's Basque region, has amassed the equivalent of \$3.3 million from the more than 90 busts his paramilitary forces have made since 1980, the daily El Mundo reported. The busts netted some 600 arrests. Each time, he received a bonus ranging from \$16,000 to \$40,000 from a special interior ministry fund, the paper said. The government caused an uproar last month by promoting Gen. Rodriguez from colonel to general. The promotion was controversial because press reports have linked him to hit squads, known as Anti-Terrorist Liberation Groups, that killed 22 Basque separatists in the 1980s. Gen. Rodriguez has not been charged in the affair. El Mundo said Gen. Rodriguez was supposed to share the bonuses with other Civil Guard officers, but that he did not. Instead, the newspaper said, Gen. Rodriguez had his subordinates take bribes from people involved in counterband in the Basque country.



A South Korean woman sobs in grief as she remembers life under Japanese rule during the colonial years of 1910-1945 in front of the Japanese embassy in Seoul on Monday (Reuters photo)

Gunmen kill 14 in Colombia massacre

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Gunmen opened fire in a dance hall in a strife-ridden region of northwest Colombia, killing at least 14 people, some as they tried to flee.

Authorities did not immediately know who was responsible for the Saturday night massacre in Chigorodo, a town in an area marked by clashes between guerrillas, leftist rebels, right-wing paramilitary groups and government troops.

As young men and women, many of them workers in the local banana fields, drank and danced at the Aracatazo bar in a poor neighbourhood, assailants armed with assault rifles walked inside and opened fire.

"They didn't say a word. They just began shooting. Even the bar owner was killed," army Col. Manuel Perez told the associated press in a phone interview from the army's 17th brigade, which is investigating.

Gunmen reportedly were posted on the street to kill anyone trying to escape. There was at least one survivor, a man who was wounded, according to radio reports. The man refused to talk to reporters. Col. Perez said investigators were having trouble getting information because witnesses were afraid to talk.

"It's a horrible thing, to see all the bodies strewn about the floor," said a local priest, Luis Carlos Sanchez. Col. Perez refused radio reports saying the gunmen had a list of names of their intended victims.

Eighteen people were killed in the bar and in the street outside, said a police officer in Chigorodo. The officer would not give his name.

But Col. Perez said 14 were killed in and around the bar. Four other people were killed elsewhere in unrelated circumstances, he said.

Army officials said they suspected either right-wing paramilitary groups, which target suspected guerrilla sympathisers, or leftist rebels were responsible for the killings.

It was the worst massacre in 20 months in the Uraba district, a region of extensive banana plantations near the Panamanian border.

At least six other people were killed Saturday night elsewhere in Uraba. The six, including three off-duty soldiers, were gunned down on the outskirts of Apartado, 25 kilometres north of Chigorodo, radio reports said. Police had no immediate comment.

In January 1994, gunmen believed to be leftist guerrillas killed 35 people in Apartado at a street party in a neighbourhood that supported a political group — the Hope, Peace and Freedom Party — composed of demobilised rebels.

Authorities suspect that massacre was carried out to force the party — a rival to other left-wing political groups — to disband.

In a report last year, a human rights group identified Uraba as one of Colombia's most violent areas, with an average of three politically motivated killings per day.

Leftist rebels have been fighting the government for more than three decades. Paramilitary groups began forming in the early 1980s in many rural areas of Colombia to protect the interests of landowners from leftists who pushed for more equal distribution of the nation's resources.

Taiwan premier urges calm before China tests

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan Premier Lien Chan on Monday urged his people to be calm as China begins a new series of missile tests north of the island.

"We should use the utmost confidence and determination to ensure the safety of the country," government spokesman Jason Hu quoted Mr. Lien as saying after a visit to the defence ministry.

China plans to start a series of missile tests on Tuesday 150 kilometres off Taiwan's north coast. The tests, to last until Aug. 25, are the second in less than a month in the East China Sea.

"We are very happy that

the defence ministry and soldiers in the army, the air force and the navy have already prepared perfect counter-measures," Mr. Lien was quoted on television as saying.

China's last series of missile tests between July 21 and 26 in the sea north of Taiwan had triggered widespread fear. The announcement of more missile tests last week sent financial markets into a spin and the Taiwan dollar tumbling.

Wu Poh-Hsiung, secretary-general of the president's office, said Taiwan would evaluate whether to postpone a military exercise scheduled

for before the island's Oct. 10 national day.

"When is the appropriate time to hold this exercise, the defence ministry will evaluate carefully," Mr. Wu said.

"When it conducts the evaluation, it will not exclude opinions from other ministers," he said.

The defence ministry has announced it will hold the Hua Hsing exercise, described as a routine military inspection activity for the national day, before Oct. 10.

Lin Yang-Kang, adviser to president Lee Teng-Hui and vice-chairman of the ruling Nationalist Party, said at the

weekend that the government should consider postponing the exercise to decrease tensions.

A senior policy-making official said scheduled talks with China could not begin if Beijing continued to try to intimidate Taiwan.

"Communist China's not renouncing the use of force is like taking a gun to point at an unarmed person. We have put down our weapons," Kao Koong-Lian, spokesman for the cabinet's mainland affairs council, said on state-funded radio.

Mr. Kao was referring to the island's announcement in

1991 that it would drop the use of force against China.

"If it still takes gun to point at us, I don't think anybody can start talks under intimidation," Mr. Kao said.

Taiwan and China have been rivals since the end of a Chinese civil war in 1949. Both governments say they want reunification, but on different terms.

Bilateral relations soured markedly after Mr. Lee's private visit to the United States in June, seen by Beijing as a move towards independence by Taiwan, which it regards as a reborn province.

Red Cross to help China flood victims

BEIJING (R) — The International Committee of the Red Cross said on Monday it hopes to raise 10.2 million Swiss francs (\$8.6 million) for victims of the worst floods since 1888 to hit northeast China.

In northeast Liaoning province alone, about 100 people have been killed or are missing, Ron Kuban, monitoring delegate for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, said after a four-day trip to Liaoning last week.

Economic losses were initially estimated at 31 billion yuan (\$3.7 billion). Tens of thousands of people have been left homeless, and the Red Cross has appealed for international aid, hoping to raise 10.2 million Swiss francs for the worst affected victims in Liaoning and other flood-stricken areas, he said.

About 380,000 homes have been destroyed and 1.1 million others damaged in Liaoning.

"We saw houses that were literally disintegrated, washed away beyond recognition," Mr. Kuban said in a telephone interview.

"It was like somebody came in with a big rake and scraped it away...it's very chaotic." Bricks and chunks of concrete from a farmer's home and his personal belongings could be found half a kilometre down the farmer's field, he said.

"I saw one person digging up his bicycle...standing and covered with mud right to the top," Mr. Kuban said.

About six million people have been affected. The Red Cross priority is to feed victims, provide them with sanitary water and clothing and have them disinfect. Mr. Kuban said.

Ross Perot does not rule out independent presidential run

DALLAS, Texas (AFP) — Texas billionaire Ross Perot, wrapping up a heavily attended political gathering with a speech sharply critical of the nation's leaders, declined to rule out another run for president Sunday.

Ending a meeting attended by all of the 1996 Republican presidential candidates, along with a high-ranking advisor to President Bill Clinton, Mr. Perot called on supporters to push for a political reform package to be passed by Congress.

Earlier, in an interview with NBC-TV, the 42-year-old Perot, who got 19 per cent of the vote in a 1992 presidential run, declined to rule out another stab at the nation's highest office in 1996.

He said taking his potential candidacy off the table, a move Republicans have been hoping Perot would make, could have a chilling effect on reforms now under consid-

eration. "Look, I would like to go away; but if I go away, the odds we'll get these reforms are zero, so I kind of have to stay around," he said.

Perot, derided by some critics as an egomaniac, said he did not dream of occupying the White House.

"I've got to honestly believe it's good for my country, because that's the only reason I would want to go serve a hitch in hell, and that's, you know, the kindest word you could put on it in terms of being in public life," he said.

In his speech Sunday, Mr. Perot had harsh words for career politicians. He said "lack of trust" was the biggest problem, and urged the members of his United We Stand political organisation to continue effort to "change that (bad) system."

Mr. Perot called on supporters to push passage by Congress of a second "Contract with America," the agenda offered by the Republican majority that allowed them to capture the House of Representatives for the first time in 40 years.

The reforms would include a revamping of campaign finance laws, restricting the power of government lobbyists and other political house cleaning.

Republicans were hoping during the conference to convince Mr. Perot not to mount another independent presidential challenge which could sap support for their candidate and hand Mr. Clinton a reelection win.

They courted the billionaire's supporters by promising a balanced federal budget, tax reforms and an end to preferences for women and minorities.

BULLFIGHT bull that b appearance some difficul

Sri L

COLOMBO Lanka is sending tiny island in the close to the main any with India by extremists of Indian state of Tamil Nadu to host the island militant on Monday.

An extreme Tamil Nadu come and flag on Monday, day, a senior told Reuters.

We're sending navy patrol boat them," he said. He identified the British Malaya

13 kill

KARACHI AFP teen people were Karachi Monday massacred and van, morning Pakistan, Day, while Prime Minister Bhutto vowed to

As Ms Bhutto grand opening outside the mosque, Islamabad, marking anniversary of the

Britain, police found six bodies in an abandoned slumped over the bound and strangled.

The victims, shot head and chest, had been kidnapped in parts of the city, the later dumped in the vehicle in the centre.

Sinn E by IR

BELFAST (R) — President Gerry Adams at the centre of the controversy Monday, the Irish Republic, land that the IRA movement had not done a yearling. Senior spokesman Fenn, which, like the IRA, has been in Northern Ireland, play down Mr. Adams mark at a huge Belfast on Sunday.

The party's vice-president, told BBC, that there was no IRA would resume its 22-year on Britain despite a peace plan.

He repeated Mr. Adams' accusation that British brought the peace process to the brink by refusing to accept the IRA and its Protestant rivals disarm.

It is not under the of a return to violence because process is in a ment is refusing to all party talks.

Mr. Doherty was de off-the-cuff remark on

Jordan Times

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The View from Fourth Circle

Barbarians and Bosnia's frightening lessons

By Rami G. Khouri

THE CONTINUING warfare and human suffering in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and other parts of the former Yugoslavia demand better than they have received to date on two important levels: explanation of the behaviour of the Western powers, notably the United States and the major European states, and explanation of the behaviour of the Islamic World.

Bosnia today is a haunted land, consumed by ghosts that bring us face-to-face with chilling realities that are as macabre as anything we have experienced in recent human history. The predominantly Muslim Bosnians have suffered the most in this terrorised and scarred place, but Serbs, Croats and international peace-keepers have also died and suffered. The latest round of fighting, ethnic cleansing and refugee flows emphasises the fact that Bosnia is the most vulnerable party, but not the only vulnerable party.

The common instinct in our region, Europe and even North America has been to wring one's hands and to wonder why the world has not done any better in protecting the Bosnians and bringing peace and stability to this disfigured patch of Earth. We hear about morality, about history, about averting or stopping vulgarity and brutality, about the unconscionable evils of ethnic cleansing, about appeasement, and about the United Nations and NATO fighter-bombers. We hear accusations that the West is complicit with Serbian aggression because the West does not want a Muslim state in its midst.

We hear many such pleas, explanations and excuses, but they all seem unsatisfactory, because they all miss the point, they all fail to accept the truth — not the truth about Bosnia and Croatia and Serbia and places far away, but the truth about our own societies and values and priorities, in the Arab and Islamic World, and in Europe and the United States. This conflict is not about avoiding repeating the horrors of the past; it has nothing to do with the past. It is a conflict about the present and the values of the present, and it is also about the future and the future shape of national interests and interventions in our world. That is why it is so terrible, and why our collective human response to it is so frightening to us, to the point that we have been numbed into almost meaningless blather when we speak of the need to bring peace and justice to that disfigured and ravaged land, and to our disfigured and ravaged psyches.

There is nothing historically new or politically unusual about the brutality in Bosnia and its violent neighbourhood. Such violence and racism have been practised by otherwise decent people in the United States, the Middle East, Europe, South America, Africa and Asia. What is new today is that we know about this passion and this slaughter at first-hand, for we see it on our televisions

several times a day. Standing at that historical novel intersection between speedy global communication and basic human compassion, our compassion bravely tries to rise to the occasion and assert itself. But it cannot match that other, deadly emotion that also defines us as human beings: selfish, materialistic indifference.

Everybody is angry about Bosnia, everybody blames someone else, everybody calls for everybody else to rise to a higher level of morality, assistance, protection, something, anything, any gesture or symbol or pathetic little sign that makes us feel that we are trying to do something, that we care, that the compassion within us has not died. But still it does not work. Our appeals are self-satisfying, but ineffective. The killing and ethnic cleansing go on, as does mass global bewilderment, and predictable appeals to do something, anything.

The agony of Bosnia is the agony of all of us as individuals and as societies and nations. The agony is that we understand now that we do not really care about Bosnia or Croatia or Serbia, beyond making the self-satisfying gestures that make us believe we care. Our crime as human beings in a single earthly family is not that we have done little or nothing to help the people of the former Yugoslavia; our crime is that we have written off these sad cultures that had the misfortune to be the world's first televised political morality freak show in the post-cold war world of Pax Americana — a sick and brutal show complete with ethnic cleansing, prisoner camps, mass rapes and fleeing refugees mowed down by enemy planes.

The new rules of the world are harsh, unrelenting and deeply lacking in compassion. The new rules have one primary measure of value: economic and material utility. If you are a big country or even a big power, you make policy today on the basis of how smaller countries can serve your material and economic interests. If you are a small country, you look for bigger powers to link with.

Bosnia and its neighbours are unlucky to be among the first lands to bear the weight of the harsh new rules, and thus to teach us about those rules and about ourselves. It is hard to admit that the Bosnian tragedy can go on for nearly four years; it is harder to accept that the indifference of the world, our indifference, is equally strong.

The first lesson of Bosnia is not about vulnerability or racism or religion or xenophobia or appeasement; it is about something far more frightening: it is about being unimportant and inconsequential, and therefore disposable. This is a terrifying realisation that hounds us as both potential practitioners and victims: we can spend years watching other countries and cultures sink into a terrible spiral of killing and desperation and do very little of

consequence about it, and we might also imagine ourselves one day becoming weak, vulnerable and peripheral, and thus subject to a cruel Bosnian fate while others watch and do little of consequence. Either way, we suffer and we lose.

Those in the West and the Islamic World who control armies and much advanced weaponry seem as perplexed about what to do in Bosnia as the average citizen. What is the meaning of their hesitation and caution, other than that they do not find the potential gains from a serious military intervention in Bosnia and environs sufficiently significant to warrant the risks of intervention? Domestic politics or national interest often are cited as reasons for caution and temperate policy. Is this not the same as saying that Bosnia and environs are not important enough to do anything, more than the current shopping list of intervention, interdiction, protection, prevention and confusion?

If Islamic and other states were really concerned enough about the suffering of Bosnians, could they not have sent more military aid or even troops? If the West were really keen to bring peace to that area, could it not have acted with more forcefulness two and three years ago, when the problem was in its infancy? In both cases, the answer is, of course, yes. Why did nobody act more decisively to help Bosnia? Because nobody deems Bosnia important or useful enough to go to war for. This is a cruel reality that is confirmed by our history today. I can draw no other reasonable conclusions from the facts before us.

Bosnia and its neighbourhood will probably live through this and history will go on, but history will be conducted henceforth according to the new rules of national political expedience and economic servitude. Countries that serve others — as markets, or geographic buffers, or sources of raw material or cheap labour, or dumping grounds for hazardous wastes, or purveyors of drugs, sex and weaponry, or exotic vacation spots, or any of many other purposes — countries that perform these functions will be courted, protected and nurtured. Countries that fail this test will be allowed to go their own way and suffer their own regional fate, at the hands of their own people and neighbours.

Bosnia has, or should have, taught us about these new rules, but most people around the world prefer not to see the new realities of our world. We prefer to live in the past, to see Bosnia and to speak of appeasement and laws of civilised societies, and yet nobody in the West or the Islamic realm really cares enough to offer more than words and humanitarian material aid. This is good and decent of the world, but it is not enough to affirm that the laws of civilised societies triumph over the narrow fears and the large swords of the barbarians — both the barbarians on the battlefield, and the barbarians in the global audience.

Code requires consensus

THE ARAB LEAGUE is busy preparing itself for an important ministerial meeting next month to adopt the so-called "Code of Honour" that supposedly would regulate inter-Arab relations in the future. Also on the agenda of the meeting will be a review of the Arab League's Charter, the creation of an Arab peacekeeping force and the establishment of an Arab High Court of Justice. These and other related subjects should make the upcoming conference in Cairo, which will take place on the eve of the next U.N. General Assembly session in New York, a momentous event that promises to improve relations between the Arab capitals and put them on a sound footing.

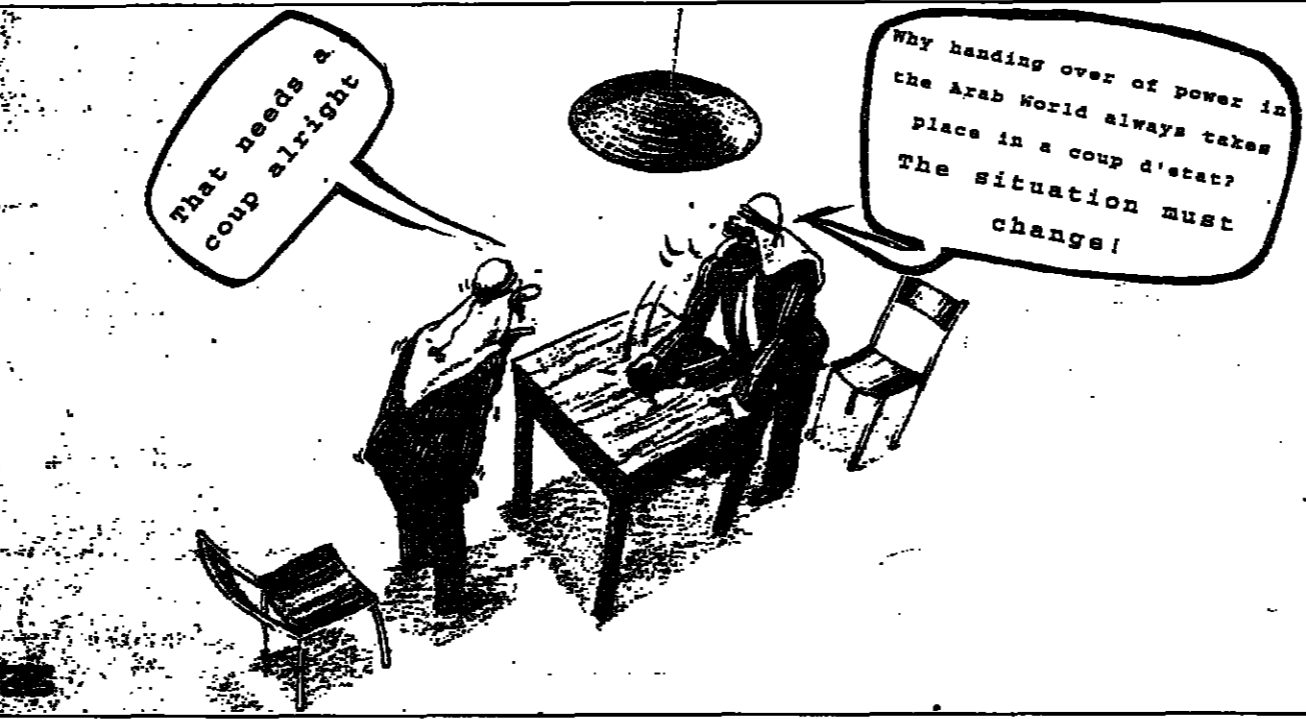
Inter-Arab ties had suffered a great deal in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis and they continue to weigh heavily on relations, among countries and even peoples. To be sure, though, there are other factors that also affect Arab relations that date back to the era that preceded the Gulf conflict. No wonder the Arab League appears determined to put the Arab house in order, beginning with basics, like the touted code of honour and ending with the more difficult and complex issues.

The proposed code, however, remains a mystery as far as the Arab peoples are concerned. The Arab League should be the first to recognise that addressing the shortcomings of inter-Arab relations calls for more than official involvement. The Arab peoples everywhere should be also involved in the process of articulating and adopting the code. That is why we need to have broader access to the articles of this code so that our masses could have an opportunity to voice their opinions on them, individually and collectively. The next few weeks which precede the convening of the ministerial meeting can be used to solicit any ideas our intellectuals, researchers and individuals might have on formulating the document. The Arab mass media in particular should be invited to publish more information about the code in question and Arab professional associations are in turn called upon to express their views. After all Arab ties are not and should not be limited or confined to official contacts. Unless and until relations among the various Arab peoples are also addressed and put on the right course, no amount of proper ties on the official level would be sufficient to ensure a bright future.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IT SEEMS that that the United States is enthusiastic about the idea of escalating tension between Iraq and Jordan and would do anything to see such development in the aftermath of the defection to the Kingdom by some of the Iraqi president's family members, said Hussein Abu Rumman, a writer in Al Ra'i, Washington is trying to employ the latest development as an excuse for maintaining the sanctions on Iraq as a means of pressure on President Saddam Hussein and his regime, said the writer. But, said the writer, it is clear that the Iraqi regime considers Jordan as its sole outlet to the outside world and as such it cannot be concerned with straining its ties with the Kingdom. Furthermore, the Iraqi regime realises that Jordan can by no means be responsible for the Iraqi internal disputes, and that it had no choice but to grant the Iraqi defectors asylum, added the writer. However, he said, it is hoped that the Iraqi regime will benefit from this latest development and embark on a democratic course, political pluralism and other positive actions that can help to end the Iraqi people's sufferings.

AL DUSTOUR daily said Monday that certain elements, considered hostile to the Arab Nation, are trying to distort Jordan's image before the world through exploiting the defection of Iraqi army officers to the Kingdom. Recalling that Jordan's position was misinterpreted during the Gulf crisis, causing the country to be ostracised. The paper said that some hostile elements are trying once again to fish in shallow waters by claiming that Jordan is serving as a base for Iraqi opposition intent on overthrowing the Iraqi regime. The paper said these elements have forgotten that tens of thousands of Iraqis have been living in Jordan since the Gulf crisis and are treated here as guests in line with the Kingdom's custom of giving refuge to all brothers and sisters from any part of the Arab World. Hosting Hussein Kamel Hassan and his companions, it said, is in keeping with this tradition of according hospitality and refuge to all brothers and sisters fleeing their homeland and seeking protection and safety.



Put India and Pakistan on the Oslo track to peace

By Ahmad Rashid and Ramesh Thakur

LAHORE, Pakistan — Relations between Pakistan and India are at their worst and most dangerous since 1970. Yet Pakistanis and northern Indians are essentially the same people with a shared civilisation and common food, music, culture, speech and way of life. France and Germany, historic enemies, are now at peace and partners in prosperity. The price paid before their reconciliation was two world wars.

Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, 20th century enemies of equally bitter proportions, are engaged in a peace process that has already recorded substantial achievements. The key was a search for peace along the so-called Oslo track.

Pakistan and India have a rivalry as intense and long as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This rivalry led to wars in 1947-1948, 1965 and 1971. If there is a future conflict, it could escalate into mutually ruinous nuclear cataclysm.

There are thus compelling reasons for the two countries to engage in a substantial search for peace. The rest of the world has a major stake in the outcome.

Almost five decades of conflict have left Pakistan and India in a lose equation. Pakistan cannot wrest Kashmir from India by force. The majority of Kashmiris care little for Indian control. The costs to India are huge and continuing. The occupation of Kashmir has damaged India's democracy and undermined its federalism. The effort of trying to integrate

Kashmir into the Indian mainstream has also been a costly financial drain. The conflict is the main obstacle in both countries to reducing military spending and converting military industries to more productive, civilian use. A high defence outlay depresses economic growth directly by diverting investment funds, and indirectly by diverting research and development skills and efforts. This is particularly true for Pakistan, 28 per cent of whose central government expenditure goes on defence, compared with 15 per cent for India.

The world's interest is engaged because of the numbers of people involved (some one-fifth of humanity) and because of the risks of a nuclear conflict. Virtually all avenues of conflict management and resolution have been tried. But not the "Oslo track."

There have been no formal diplomatic talks between the two countries for more than a year. Allegations about intelligence and security agencies meddling in each other's internal trouble spots and waging vicious proxy wars.

Previous rounds of foreign secretary talks over five years proved barren because both sides are forced to pander to strong right-wing lobbies opposed to a peace agreement and in favour of deploying nuclear weapons. Holding talks in the full glare of media excitement and overblown expectations helps make both governments hostage to domestic constituencies.

The Oslo track has three stages. The first involves discussions among private individuals who have never had any position in government. This enables both states to deny any knowledge of the dialogue, if necessary. The individuals concerned must nevertheless have the complete trust of their governments in communicating official positions without distortion and maintaining total confidentiality. They must be prepared to devote months to the task.

Second, once both governments have established trust in each other's good faith in negotiations through months of such diplomacy, the senior officials can get involved alongside the private individuals. At this stage, Kashmiri representatives should come into the process.

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Finally, once officials in consultations with home governments have identified the difficult choices that need to be made in the peace agreement package, the two prime ministers can become involved directly in making the tough decisions on the balance of advantages in trading one concession for another.

This is, of course, an elite model for settling conflicts. There is a common tendency to demonise elites and romanticise "ordinary people." However, the negotiating room for democratic governments is circumscribed by popular passions. The initial explorations for peace between Pakistan and India must therefore occur in the form of secret talks.

Another feature of the Oslo track that might apply to a Pakistan-India dialogue speed. The negotiations should not take more than a year to reach agreement on the main components of a deal, even though finalising

Mr. Rashid is a journalist based in Lahore. Mr. Thakur, who was born in India, is head of the Peace Research Centre at the Australian National University in Canberra. They contributed above comment to the International Herald Tribune.

Who's right and who's wrong? Depends on whose bus you're on with Yugoslavia

The renewal of Croat-Serb fighting has revived the propaganda war that last raged in 1991

PLASKI, Croatia (AP) — The trip is similar to one run by Serbs four years ago, but the message is different. Pointing out land retaken by the Croatian army, the guide says: "Pay attention please. It did not destroy anything in the process."

Up the road, the promises reporters on a government-sponsored tour that they will see a village, Saborsko, razed by rebel Serbs in 1991 after Croats fled it.

Never mind that much of that Croat-held village was actually destroyed back then in shelling to oust its defenders. On this bus tour, the Croats are saints, the Serbs villains.

The return of Serb-Croat fighting to the region has revived the propaganda war that last raged here in 1991, when rebel Serbs, helped by the Serb-led Yugoslav army, took a third of Croatia.

But with the government army routing the Serbs in a three-day offensive earlier last week, most of southern Croatia is free of the rebels for the first time in four years. No wonder the message on the Croatian bus differs from that four years ago, when journalists were packed onto Yugoslav army buses for the Serb side of the story.

Back then reporters and camera crews bused into southern Croatia from Banja Luka, the Bosnian Serb city serving as Yugoslav army headquarters for the Croatian campaign, were exposed to scenes meant to put the army and the Serbs in good light.

Though the fledgling Croat army was out-

powered by the Yugoslav-backed Serb army in that war, reporters were shown only houses said to have been destroyed by Croat fighters. Rebel Serb women and children encountered along the way predictably sang the praises of the Yugoslav force defending them.

Then as now, independent reports of shelling of innocent civilians and other atrocities were denied, and permits to travel alone refused.

Four years later, the Croatian government likewise designed a tour that portrays it most favourably. The bus moves past Plaski's Serbian Orthodox church, which the guide says had been left standing by Croatian troops only to be left in disrepair by the Serbs.

"Judging from appearances, it would appear the Serbs never used it," she sniffs, and the implication is clear — unlike Croats, God-fearing Catholics, the enemy never went to church.

The bus picks up speed leaving Plaski as the road improves, blurring the sight of houses burned to their foundations and still smoking. They appear to have been deliberately torched, days after the end of any fighting and the Serb exodus from the region.

Saborsko is levelled, and some of the destruction was clearly wrought after the fighting ended four years ago. The guide repeats her message for those who haven't grasped it: "You can see that everything here was destroyed, in comparison to the Serb villages, which are generally intact."

On the way back the bus stops at Slunj, 80 kilometres southwest of Zagreb. The bus empties as the reporters stretch their legs. Some government troops, unshaven reserves moved in after elite soldiers have left, swig bottles of brandy and home-brewed Rakija, thrusting them at some of the visitors.

An army captain moves up to a particularly wild group singing on the street corner. Putting a fatherly arm around a burly trooper's shoulder he says softly: "Easy does it my friend. Remember, we have to show the world that we're not the barbarians."

By Michael Georgy Reuter

Journalist Daphne... the end of June... Castro and sev... members of the Re... Palace of the Re... and Havana's... corralled Donald... Joanne Chestim... conjunction wi... Richard Gooding... Fox Television.

Just before I left... on a too-long flight... of Mexico City and... a prominent New... businessman, who... holdings happen to... gambling casinos... me aside. "When... Field," he whispe... spratorily, "well... love to open a cas... Havana — the min... talked in... No one in Cuba... course, needs me... the message that... the business world... lean on the beach... log on the beach... ready for the sign... signal, to land. Av... to Roberto Talarr... deputy minister of... investment and bu... tion, some 100 A... businessmen came... the past year and... to expressed inter... resting in Cuba. He... naming names. Bus... was no reason to... am.

Right now, the... States is virtually... country missing the... hauling dollars into... not refugees out... American nations... then it was propos... Soviet money, and... looking out for the... economic well-bein... scrambling to build... trade with Cuba... which earned Castro... long affection for... leaving the U.S. am... currently pursuing... mats here world... making it the "s... largest foreign inv... Argentina has baloo... \$13 billion. And Bra... signed the most reac... money deal to take... cigarettes production... country whose res... consume 12 cig... cigarettes a year —... by unlikely to ever p... American-style "no... ing" law. But ever... investments are not... enough to turn the... Cuba's drowning eco... In the summer... and smoky haze of... 's cafes, the talk is... dollars. In Cuba, the... dollar is almight... ordinary Cubans an... most senior govern... officials talk of the... and of "openness"... comes as across as... begging in this coun... machismo. The hunge... — real physical... among the people... for foreign invest... among the officials... pervasive. It has led... much-publicised (U... U.S.) return of pro... to even the presump... Avenida area of Ha... with its state emb... and manicured gar... shows up in the jec... drivers, chauffeurs... that puts you in co... with tourists and che... less. It surfaces ever... you pick up the pho... local call: The perso... other end says "mon... to," puts you on hold... maybe 45 minutes, an... get a bill for \$25. And... comes together whe...

By Michael Georgy Reuter

ABU DHABI... Thousands of foreig... land at Abu Dhabi's... every day, lured by... petrodollars, gleam... before Abu Dhabi's... room triggered an ex... son in human and fr... traffic in the mid-197... "This has bee... shopping-off point for... years. What an irony...

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ABU DHABI —
Thousands of foreigners
land at Abu Dhabi's airport
every day, lured by a city of
petrodollars, gleaming sky-
scrapers and shiny luxury
cars.
But as archaeologists re-
cently learned, the search
for riches began in the air-
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before Abu Dhabi's oil
boom triggered an explo-
sion in human and freight
traffic in the mid-1970s.
"This has been a
stopping-off point for 7,000
years. What an irony that

Features

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 1995 7

The revolution that has lost its glamour

Journalist Daphne Barak spent two weeks in Cuba at the end of June, interviewing everyone from Fidel Castro and several of his potential successors — members of the youthful "Blazer Generation" at the Palace of the Revolution — to Cuba's "First Lady" and Havana's new ladies of the night. She also corralled Donald Nixon, friend to arrested fugitive Robert Vesco, and notorious Black Panther fugitive Joanne Chesimard. Ms. Barak's report was written in conjunction with veteran New York newsman Richard Gooding, who is daily news deputy editor at Fox Television.

By Daphne Barak and
Richard Gooding

Just before I left for Cuba, on a too-long flight by way of Mexico City and Cancun, a prominent New York businessman, whose vast holdings happen to include gambling casinos, pulled me aside. "When you see Fidel," he whispered conspiratorily, "tell him I'd love to open a casino in Havana — the minute we're allowed in."

No one in Cuba, of course, needs me to pass the message that the American business world is waiting on the beachhead, ready for the signal, any signal, to land. According to Roberto Talarid, Cuba's deputy minister of foreign investment and coopera- tion, some 200 American businessmen came here in the past year and, inagnoto, expressed interest in investing in Cuba. He wasn't naming names, but there was no reason to doubt him.

Right now, the United States is virtually the only country missing the boat hauling dollars into Cuba, not fugues out. Latin American nations, no longer threatened by Cuba as an ideological force, as when it was propped up by Soviet money and oil, are looking out for their own economic well-being and scrambling to build up their trade with Cuba, Mexico, which earned Castro's undying affection by never joining the U.S. embargo, is currently pursuing investments here worth \$2 billion, making it the island's largest foreign investor. Cuba's trade debt with Argentina has ballooned to \$1.3 billion. And Brazil has signed the most recent big-money deal, to take over cigarettes production in a country whose residents consume 12 billion cigarettes a year — a country unlikely to ever pass an American-style "no smoking" law. But even these investments are not nearly enough to turn the tide for Cuba's dawning economy.

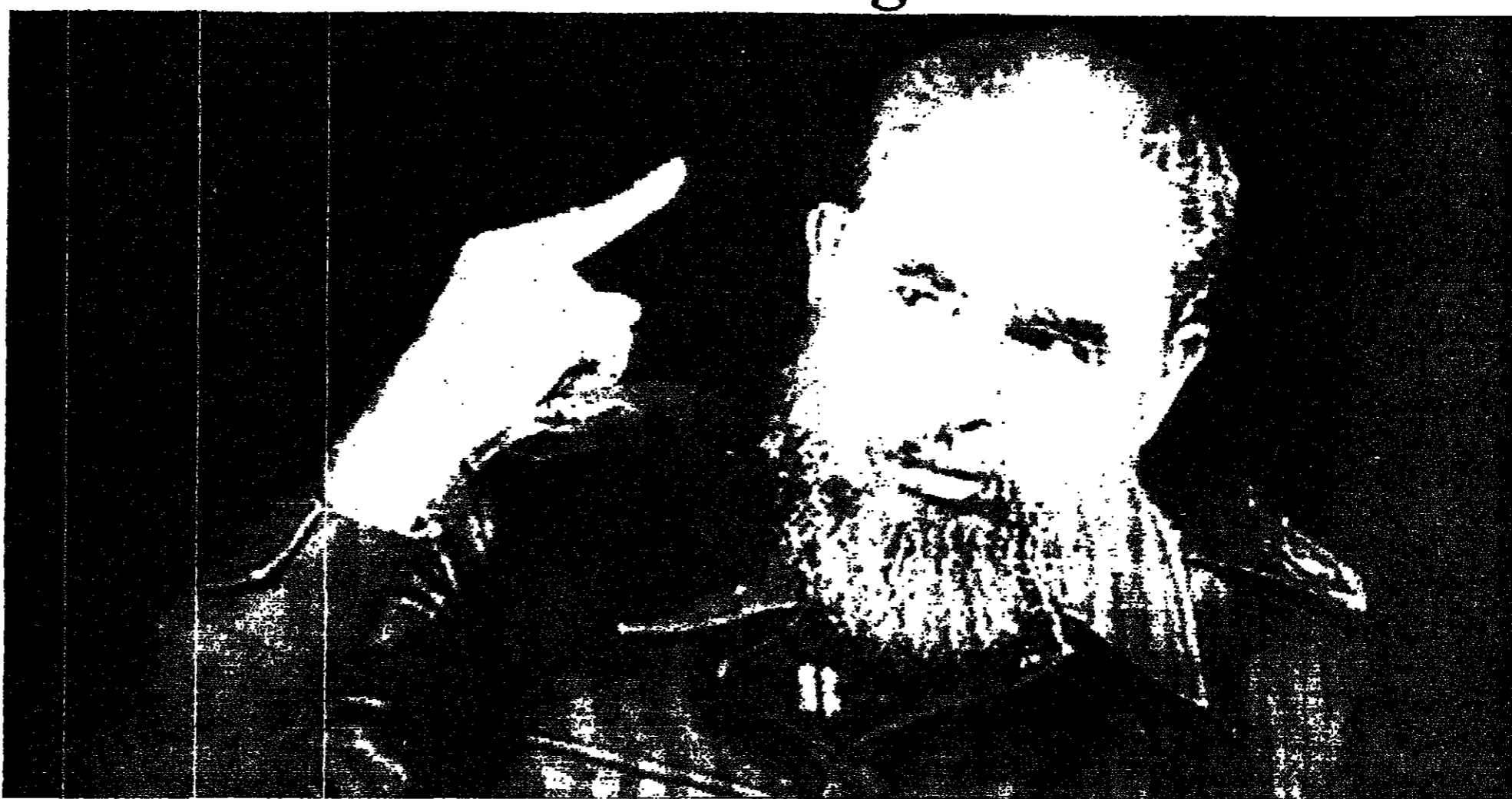
In the summer swelter and smoky haze of Havana cafes, the talk is all of dollars. In Cuba, the U.S. dollar is almighty. Both ordinary Cubans and the most senior government officials talk of the dollar and of "openness" — and it comes as across as rank begging in this country of machismo. The hunger here for real physical hunger among the people, hunger for foreign investment among the officials — is pervasive. It has led to the much-publicised (in the U.S.) return of prostitutes to even the prestigious Fifth Avenues area of Havana, with its stately embassies and manicured gardens. It shows up in the jobs most sought after here — taxi drivers, chauffeurs, translators, waiters; anything that puts you in contact with tourists and their wallets. It surfaces every time you pick up the phone for a local call: The person at the other end says "momento," puts you on hold for maybe 45 minutes, and you get a bill for \$25. And it all comes together whenever

you take a government official to lunch. Just sit across from a man who earns \$3 a month — paid in pesos, not dollars — and watch him order six or seven courses, each one the most expensive on the menu (lobster cocktail at \$30), washing it all down with the rarest wine from the cellar, and the point is made: In his case, he is not hungry for the food so much as for the cash (credit cards are useless baggage here) you can fork over to Cuban hands. An ugly American capitalist can go broke talking to Cuban officials about foreign investment.

"I don't understand why foreigners don't invest more in Cuba," Talarid tells me in his office, in a building threatening to collapse at any moment. The curtains are torn, the air conditioning drips even more humidity into the saturated air (it doesn't work at all in the rest of the building), and the elevator is stuck on the ground floor. For two repetitive hours, the deputy foreign minister went on, incredulous about "What's wrong?" Cuba, he insisted, "is one of the most stable countries in the world — really. You invest money today, and there is no military or financial downside that is predictable."

One who did invest — although apparently not in the traditional sense — was fugitive American financier and fraud artist Robert Vesco. For 15 years, he was an honoured citizen of Havana, a personal friend of Castro's, and suddenly on May 31 he was arrested at his mansion and thrown into the dreaded Santa Maria prison. It was major news in the States and around the world, but without access to CNN or any American United media, not a word of it reached here; not one appeared in the Cuban national newspaper. In the American press, the story was spun on whether Castro was throwing a bone to President Clinton. Castro's spin was this: "He was a spy." I beg your pardon? "Yes. When he came to Cuba he had a very positive attitude towards the Revolution. But we finally found out that he had changed his ways..." Translation: Vesco was no longer willing, or able, to line the pockets of his hosts.

Of course, it is not the threat of Santa Maria and a diet of milk and sugar that keeps foreign investors off guard, if not at bay. It is what Cubans call the blockade — the punitive American trade embargo. With the recognition of Vietnam, only North Korea remains as shut off from Americans as Cuba. If the motive in opening the door to Vietnam was to get up to speed with the rest of the West's investments there, then Cubans are quick to point out that their market is far more accessible to American goods, far more potentially lucrative. But not only does the trade ban continue, a bill in Congress



FIDEL CASTRO: "Not ready for his own future...but resigned to the non-revolutionary future (AFP photo)"

would penalise foreign firms that do business in both Cuba and the U.S. And headline Cuban exile leader Jorge Mas Canosa in Miami has sent off tough letters to Latin American and European leaders, urging them to hold off investing in Cuba — at least while Castro remains in power.

Is Washington simply waiting for Castro to die? His passing would certainly make the lifting of the embargo politically easier. But a death in Havana may not come in good time for Washington; Castro may have had to give up his cigars, but he appears more than vigorous. More importantly, the embargo limits America's input on the succession process, clearly underway now. Both the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal, coming at it from different viewpoints, have urged an end to the ban and the application of the carrot, not the stick, to nudge Cuba towards freedom.

For their part, top Cuban officials argue that it is increasingly the U.S., not Cuba, that is isolated by the embargo. And they go out of their way to compliment Mr. Clinton. Castro is no exception. In one breath, he is downright generous, even gallant, towards Mr. Clinton; in the next, however, he worries that "it's not really healthy for Clinton that I give him too many compliments. It could hurt him in the next elections." Castro ever extends a nearly warm hand towards the Republicans, mentioning Bob Dole and Newt Gingrich in particular; the Republicans may be traditionally more antagonistic to Cuba, but no one here has forgotten that it was Richard Nixon, not a liberal Democrat, who first went to China.

"It's not really my fault that I'm still alive," Castro says with a big smile. "It's not really my fault that they didn't manage to kill me." I ask without needing to: Who? "The CIA." But Castro, despite rumours of a throat ailment and a mysterious hospitalisation, is far healthier than his revolution. Even the concedes these days that he is now a "realist" about capi-

talism; he has qualms about some of the economic reforms his government has instituted, but not so many that he wouldn't sign off on them; he knows the inevitable end of the U.S. embargo will prove to be a massive headache for Cuba, but he's willing to "gamble" that all he's created won't be swept away in a tidal wave of corruption, a return to the wide-open Havana of old.

Carlos Fernandez Decosio, in charge of North American affairs in the foreign ministry and one of the most promising young leaders here tells me: "There is a new generation that is growing here that maybe does recognise the mistakes of the past."

One of the few leaders who bucks that trend is Cuba's de-facto first lady, Wilma Aspin Castro, wife of Raoul Castro, the defence minister and a possible successor to his brother (despite persistent rumours of a fondness for drink). Immaculately dressed and made up, her hair in a conservative bun, this still-beautiful woman grants a rare interview only after days of persistent requests. When I suggest that maybe Cuba bet on the wrong horse with the Soviet Union, she gets far more defensive than her male colleagues at the Palace of the Revolution. I tell her: Look how difficult it is for the Cuban people; it's very hard to be ideologically pure when you don't have relatives in Miami or Spain to send you dollars, when you don't have food in your stomach. She looks at me with amazement. "Who said that life should be easy? I don't understand what you're talking about. Do you think that living like you live in New York City is easy?" At that, she recalled a visit to New York City when she was 24 (1965-'66) and on her way to study at Massachusetts Institute (MIT). "I went into the subway at night and I was shivering with fear. I was trembling. Here in Cuba you can go in the street without any fear." I tell her, yes, of course, with all these thousands of policemen. Wilma doesn't like that, either. She certainly doesn't like to hear that I

interview hookers on Havana's Fifth Avenue. She is full of fire now. "Once I got so angry about it that I took policemen and we actually stopped the pimps. (In English, she asked, "How do you say it, 'pimps'?") We stopped the pimps on this avenue and we put them in jail. And I was in charge of it, I was there with the policemen. But, you know, the girls, they're not really hookers. They're just girls who want clothes for their babies."

The next day, we again stopped to chat with a "not really a hooker," as Wilma would have it. Before we were suddenly surrounded by eight police cars for conducting an unauthorised street interview — still a no-no here — this young lady was just as adamant as her first lady. "It's very nice of Mrs. Castro, all dressed in Christian Dior, to tell me what to do. And it's nice of her that she can talk. But I have to make a living and feed my baby, and I don't have a Christian Dior suit."

Castro does not have his own first lady, and while he concedes he has fathered a number of children (but "not as many as people want to think"), none of them are in the line of succession. It is one of Castro's "adopted" sons, Robert Robiena, who most definitely is. Robiena, 39, is short (Castro calls him "Robert Tico"). As foreign minister, he is the most powerful man in Cuba after Fidel and Raoul. When I phoned the ministry, I was told Robiena was out of town. But hours later I found myself standing next to the out-of-town guy at a garden party at the Canadian Embassy (Canada is Cuba's closest ally now; Fidel regularly appears at celebrations of the Canadian and Mexican national holidays, no others; and he has even taken to dropping by the embassy, uninvited, for coffee with the Canadian ambassador). The next day, Robiena and I met in his office, which is oddly teeming with peacocks and parrots. Fidel's "wonder boy" arrives on his bicycle (a health-food fanatic, he says he rides four kilometres a day and walks another four), very aware

of his charm and glistening with sweat. Tweaking his reputation for never wearing socks or a tie, he presents himself to the world this day in a jumpsuit and a black shirt — with a white tie painted onto it. Still no socks, just sandals.

"The revolution was good in its time," Robiena says, tellingly using the past tense. "Now there are new times. It's not really a question of gambling on the wrong horse, but a question of change. The world is changing and we have to change. We did make a few mistakes; maybe we were wrong. But who doesn't make mistakes?" When I ask Robiena about making approaches to Mr. Clinton, the parrot gets hysterical, making so much racket I can't concentrate. "That's how he responds to Bill Clinton. And if you ask him about the blockade, he says, 'No. No. No.' We tried it, and it was true."

I ask Robiena point-blank: Will you be Fidel's successor? His reply is suitably humble but revealing: "You journalists are so busy on the next name, the next name. But who says we're talking about one name; maybe Fidel succeeded in building a collective leadership that will take care of the country." Asked about Fidel's affectionate nickname for him, Robiena blushes momentarily, and then returns to the subject. "Yes, they do mention my name. But why only me? There is Raoul, there are others. I have so many goals as foreign minister..." Some have already been achieved, he says: He has recruited a much younger cadre of officials at the foreign ministry, and everyone he hired speaks English.

This has been a summer full of approaches to Mr. Clinton and Washington from shimmering island. While I was there, it was later revealed, Cuban exile leader Eloy Gutierrez Menoyo was also in the country, on a secret 10-day visit that included an audience with Castro. Gutierrez said he had asked Castro to allow his Miami-based Cambino Cubano into Cuba as an opposition political party. Castro's reply was unknown (surely, it was

not a simple "Si"), but U.S. State Department officials put out word they viewed the meeting as a positive signal. Then there was Vesco's arrest, and in meetings with senior officials there were hints that another of the 70 or so American fugitives here, Joanne Chesimard, the Black Panther convicted of the 1973 killing of a New Jersey state trooper, might also be in jeopardy, a pawn to the spirit of cooperation. (I tracked down Chesimard, living in Havana as Assata Shakur and writing a second book.

Wearing a brightly-coloured dress, she looked healthy and much younger than her 48 years. We sat in the Floridita restaurant, the old Havana haunt made famous by Ernest Hemingway, and as violins played behind us she started crying about how she "misses" America and New York City. But, she insisted, "the Cubans know I never killed anyone. I feel very secure here." Then she paused and added: "I don't know what say... I hope Fidel is not going to trade me. I know people are linking me with Vesco, but we have nothing in common. I don't think very highly of what he did..." For their part, Robiena and other senior officials, and even Castro himself, wanted no part of questions about Chesimard, silence that seemed to speak for itself.

The Cuban Revolution has not lost its occasional bite here. I met a German tourist who for want of the proper visa ended up in jail, stripped of his clothes, humiliated, and only allowed out of the country after his ambassador interceded. Even then, he was forced to sign a statement of guilt and to pay \$110 for "room and breakfast" — a cell, and milk and sugar. Members of my TV film crew were so edgy about secret police that when a maid in their hotel walked in on them after midnight to offer a Leona Helmsley-style courtesy of a bedtime mint, they imagined the worst and blocked her entry. And Donald Nixon, the nephew of Richard who was staying with Vesco when the soldiers stormed in, was still terrorised when I

caught up to him at the Cancun airport. "The mansion was surrounded by soldiers in green uniforms," he recalled. "Vesco told me, 'Go up to your room, something looks very uneasy.' Suddenly, a colonel knocked on my door and said, 'You have to come down right now.' I went down and managed to see Vesco, the strongest guy in Cuba, held by the soldiers outside. He couldn't even say goodbye." Nixon couldn't contain his relief, exclaiming over and over how lucky he was to have gotten out alive.

(A few weeks after my return, the New York Times carried news of the latest warning sign: Negotiations to exempt American news organisations from the embargo and to allow them to set up bureaus in Cuba for the first time since 1969).

Ordinary Cubans still won't hazard anything but servile flattery of Castro to strangers. But, like Robiena, they have taken to speaking of the Revolution in the past tense. When Castro is gone, what will be left?

"Believe me," says Castro, "the life of Cuba is not going to stop for one second," even a bit of a second. "I look at him and take a deep breath. Maybe it's time for a new revolution. I suggest, Castro is touching his beard and looking at me intently, to the point of embarrassment. "No, a real revolution, with significance to it and ideology, should happen maybe every 300 years." Maybe it's time you should rest, I say, with much sympathy as I can muster. "The CIA would probably agree with that," he replies. "Maybe also the Mossad." Finally, I have to ask: Who will take over when you're gone? "This is a question you should ask the CIA," he says, again resorting to his favourite bogeyman. "They spend so much time on how 'I'm going to end up...' Fidel looks more bemused than disturbed by the prospect; it's clear he's thought about it a lot, analysed it from every angle. Not ready for his own funeral, he's resigned to the non-revolutionary future.

Late stone age desert site found by birdwatcher

By Michael Georgy
Reuter

ABU DHABI —
Thousands of foreigners
land at Abu Dhabi's airport
every day, lured by a city of
petrodollars, gleaming sky-
scrapers and shiny luxury
cars.
But as archaeologists re-
cently learned, the search
for riches began in the air-
port's desert perimeter long
before Abu Dhabi's oil
boom triggered an explo-
sion in human and freight
traffic in the mid-1970s.
"This has been a
stopping-off point for 7,000
years. What an irony that

the airport is located here," said British archaeologist Jakub Czacika, standing in the sand beside excavated remains dating back thousands of years.

The site would probably have been destroyed by bulldozers had it not been for a birdwatcher who accidentally stumbled on a scattering of fine late stone age flint tools, dating from about 5000 to 4500 B.C., and prehistoric pottery.

The findings, uncovered in January, provided the first tangible evidence linking early inhabitants to the fishing communities along the islands of Abu Dhabi and illustrated lifestyle pat-

terns along ancient trade routes.

"We have always suspected it, but the site is the first proof that people have been using the same trade routes in this area for thousands of years," said Mr. Czacika.

"And now we know for sure that inland inhabitants travelled this way. From the stone age point of view this is a major find."

Archaeologists have discovered late stone age sites on the islands of Merawah, Ghagah and Al Fzaiyah, but uncovering the airport artefacts marked the first time one was confirmed on the Abu Dhabi coastline.

The excavation is being done by the Abu Dhabi Islands Archaeological Survey Project, a London and Abu Dhabi-based organisation with specialists from Britain, Germany, Italy and the Czech Republic.

Eager for further clues, Mr. Czacika and a team of archaeologists have divided the area into five-metre squares surrounded by string.

Volunteers picked up 10,000 pieces of late stone age flint and 10,000 shards of prehistoric and late Islamic pottery and beads from the grids and arranged them for analysis.

They turned up several

important artefacts including fine red potsherds dating from between 2700 and 2200 B.C., apparently showing that the early inhabitants imported and exported their goods along extensive trade routes.

"We divided up the whole area and then we went back and sieved it. The materials shed light on a crossroads of peoples and trade routes," said Mr. Czacika.

"Our preliminary findings suggest the site was a transit point in the copper trade from the inland all the way to Mesopotamia (modern Iraq)."

"The area was an impor-

tant crossroads. Traders here acted as middlemen, importing goods from Asia and sending them to places such as north Africa."

But some of the trade was simpler.

Caravans from al Ain carried items such as dates, firewood, goat wool and camel hair on a one-week journey by camel through about 200 kms of punishing desert to Abu Dhabi.

They exchanged their goods for local dried fish and an assortment of prized items including wood and pottery from Persia and Mesopotamian jewelry.

Mr. Czacika and his team now know that the ancient traders often stopped near the airport site on their way to the coast, some five kms away, to load up on the most precious commodity — water.

That became evident when excavators began removing layers of sand from what turned out to be wells from the late Islamic period.

"We believe these wells have been rebuilt over thousands of years," said Mr. Czacika as an archaeologist measured the stones of one of the wells, a

circular structure 3.5 metres in diameter.

The precise age of the wells is unknown because no tools or cooking utensils were found in them. Archaeologists suspect there were ancient settlements nearby, but the mystery may never be unraveled.

"The evidence has been lost," said Mr. Czacika, looking at three bulldozers in the distance being used in an airport expansion project.

"The evidence of the settlements has probably been buried under landfill operations," he said.

High-level Iraqi defection sparks oil market bearishness

LONDON (R) — Oil prices lost ground Monday amid concerns that the defection of Iraq's military mastermind might help speed the return to world markets of Iraqi crude oil for the first time since it was banned more than five years ago.

"News from Iraq will tend to be bearish because the recent status quo is that sanctions will stay," said an oil trader in London. "Any news which puts that status quo in doubt, raising the possibility of full Iraqi cooperation with the U.N. or even of Saddam being overthrown, will hit the oil price."

But analysts said it was not yet clear exactly what impact the defection of Jordan of the head of Iraq's military industrialisation programme might have for the timing of the end of the United Nations oil embargo imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

London September futures for world benchmark North Sea Brent blend slipped 20 cents to \$16.05 a barrel after Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz announced that Iraq would reveal military secrets it had been keeping from the U.N. commission overseeing elimination of Baghdad's military programme.

Under Gulf war ceasefire terms the ban on Iraqi oil exports can only be lifted when Baghdad meets U.N. weapons demands.

The Aziz announcement appeared to be a pre-emptive move following the defection of Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel Hassan, a son-in-law of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Mr. Hussein Kamel Saturday called for the overthrow of the Iraqi leader. As holder of Iraq's military secrets he was central to negotiations with the United Nations. But Western diplomats in the region are not yet prepared to predict the demise of the Iraqi president.

Kleinwort Benson oil analyst Mehdi Varzi said there were two ways of looking at the latest Iraqi developments.

"In one sense the defections have played into the

hands of the U.S. which may use them as a means of prolonging sanctions," said Mr. Varzi. "America could even go further now and say openly what is said in the background: That this proves Saddam Hussein cannot be trusted and sanctions must remain until he's removed."

On the other hand, Mr. Hussein Kamel's defection may press President Saddam into revealing the military secrets the U.N. insists on. "The defections might lead to a fuller revelation of Iraq's military past and might be sufficient in the next few months to persuade the Russians and the French to advance a motion calling for the lifting of sanctions," Mr. Varzi said.

Renewed Iraqi oil exports would have to compete in a well-supplied market where fast-growing volumes from producers outside of OPEC are easily matching extra world demand.

"Quite frankly the oil market has so much potential supply on the horizon that I don't think Iraqi oil is needed until at the earliest 1997 if not later...if it were to come earlier it would cause an almighty crisis," said Mr. Varzi.



Tokyo money brokers haggle over bids during Monday afternoon dollar trade in Tokyo. The dollar rose to a five-month high of 94.45 yen in morning trade, with Tokyo dealers saying they are sceptical whether the dollar can soon

manage to climb into the 95 to 100 yen territory that the Japanese monetary authorities may be aiming for to help the economy recover (Reuters photo)

Kuwaiti government faces battle with parliament over debt

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — The Kuwaiti government is lobbying hard to win a vote in parliament Tuesday that would ease repayment terms for billions of dollars owed to the state mainly by wealthy Kuwaitis, members of parliament said.

The government needs 31 votes in the 60-seat parliament to win passage of the bill which would extend the repayment period for 5.9 billion dinars (\$17.7 billion) in debts.

It has asked all 16 cabinet ministers who are also members of parliament, as well as those who were sick or on vacation, to attend the full session on Tuesday, the parliamentarians told AFP.

The bill has drawn strong criticism from MPs and economists who say it favours the rich and hurts the treasury.

The debt derives from the 1982 crash of an unofficial stock exchange and was aggravated by Iraq's 1990-1991 invasion of Kuwait. The government in 1992 bought out the commercial banks' holdings of the dubious loans.

The list of debtors was never made public, but diplo-

mats said they were not only from the country's big merchant families but also from the Sabah royal family.

"The government will be in difficulty if it persists in its plan to ease or reschedule debts favouring the richest people at the expense of the treasury," parliament's economic committee advisor Jassem Al-Sadoun said.

MPs close to the government will be in "an uncomfortable position if they back a bill which the public rejects," he said.

Parliament's finance and economy committee Saturday rejected for a second time provisions on extending the repayment period. It said the bill "should be applied as it was adopted (in 1993) in order not to hurt public property."

Under a 1993 law, the debtors had the choice of a cash-settlement option with a 45 per cent write-off to be made over two years starting Sept. 6.

The government's bill, which came in response of the debtors' plea for better terms as the Sept. 6 deadline drew nearer, stretches the cash settlement option to five years.

China finance minister warns of dangerous rise in state spending

BEIJING (AFP) — China's state expenditure rose by an unacceptable level in the first half of 1995, Finance Minister Liu Zhongli said Monday, warning of a "severe" burden on central government finances.

The warning came after statistics published Monday showed national expenditure in the first six months had soared 27.4 per cent compared with the same period last year, far exceeding the budgeted 9.3 per cent rise.

"The trend of fiscal expenditures far overshooting state budgets must be curbed in order to make sure that the budgetary goals for 1995 will not be missed," Mr. Liu was quoted as saying by the Xinhua news agency. The expenditure grew even faster than at the national level, recording an increase of more than 30 per cent over the first half of 1994.

The spending surge has placed an extra burden on central finances, which are

already struggling to provide inflation-beating subsidies on bank deposits and treasury bonds.

"The central financial situation is still severe," Mr. Liu said, adding that problems of lax tax collection, growing tax rebates and mounting commercial tax arrears required urgent resolution in the second half of the year.

"Fiscal budgets must be fully observed and expenditure must be brought under control," he said, stressing that no new off-budget spending would be sanctioned except for disaster relief.

Off-budget government expenditure is enormous, especially in terms of state bank loans to the loss-making state sector.

China has officially set this year's growth in fiscal expenditure at 9.3 per cent, against revenue growth of 9.9 per cent, for a targeted budget deficit of 66.68 billion yuan (\$8 billion).

According to final accounts published in June, China posted a budget deficit of \$7.4 billion last year.

Meanwhile, Chinese economists have warned the government it must keep annual growth and inflation below 10 per cent to avoid overheating the economy and thus threatening the country's development.

The recommendation came from experts at the State Statistics Bureau in a report

on economic development during the current five year plan (1991-95), part of which was published in press reports Monday.

While highlighting the "remarkable" economic progress of the past five years and acknowledging government efforts to rein in inflation, the report said serious problems remain.

Rising prices and falling agricultural production are the main concerns along with

crippling losses by state enterprises, and the widening wealth gap between regions and social classes.

Gross domestic product (GDP) has grown by an average 11.7 per cent between 1991 and 1995, according to the experts, who based their

calculations on an estimate for this year.

GDP grew 10.3 per cent in the first six months of this year over the same period of 1994, the authorities have announced.

The press reports did not give the experts' inflation

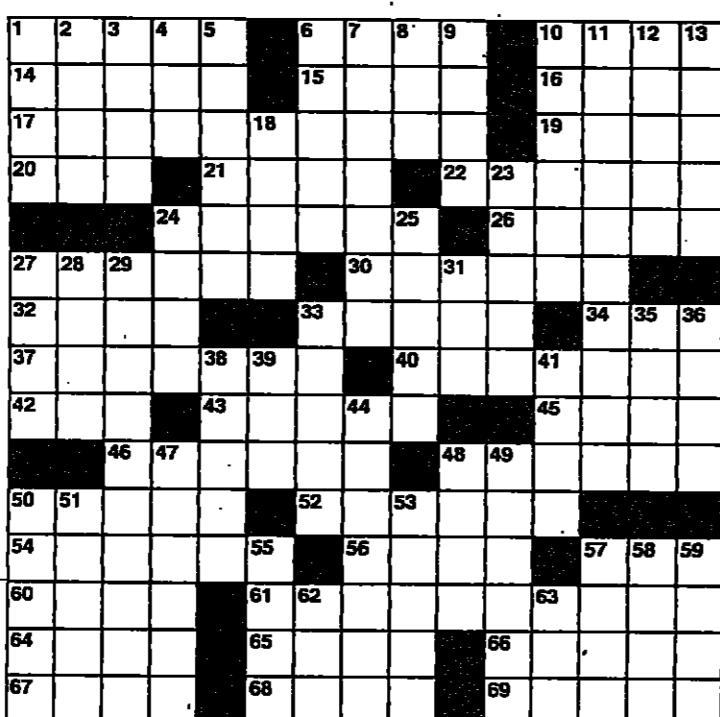
estimate for this year, or the past five years. But the statistics bureau said last week that the year-on-year consumer inflation rise in July was 14.6 per cent.

The government has set a target of restricting inflation in 1995 to 15 per cent, against 21.7 per cent in 1994.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171

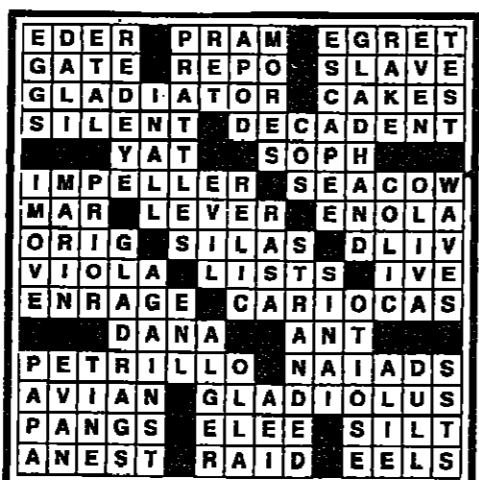
THE Daily Crossword by Harvey Chew

- ACROSS
- Crow
 - Peruse
 - Govt. agent
 - Sir Galahad's suit
 - Whirlpool
 - A Kennedy
 - Imperi
 - Poker term
 - Invite
 - Aurally handicapped
 - Best performance
 - Braided cordage
 - Native Indian soldier
 - Stroller
 - Cuban leader
 - Asian mountain range
 - Distinctive class
 - Meadow
 - Substitute for
 - knot
 - Luau dish
 - Certain grain
 - Hebrew priest
 - WA city
 - Natural ability
 - Bell town
 - Figure of speech
 - Make wider
 - Dickens girl
 - Out of each hundred: abbr.
 - Sere
 - Treat milk in a way
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 - Dies —
 - Take it easy
 - Appear
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 - Use



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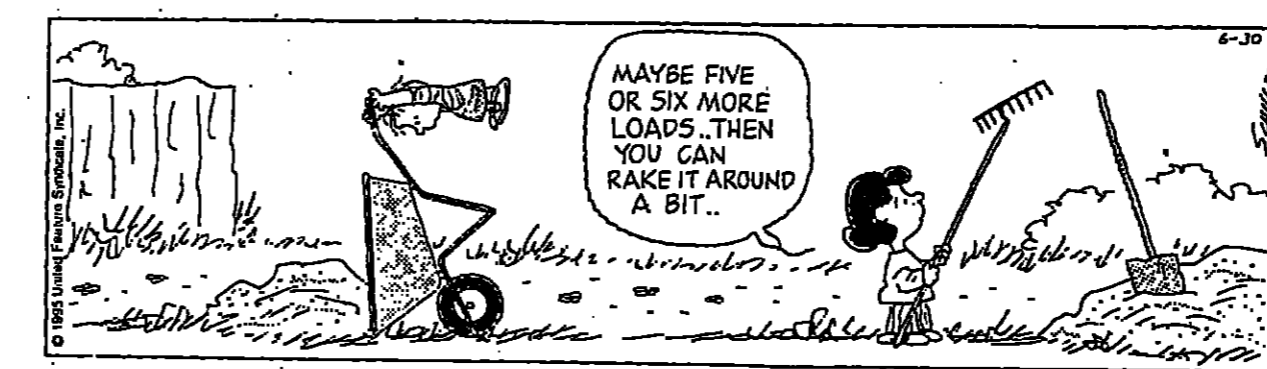
Yesterday's puzzle solved:



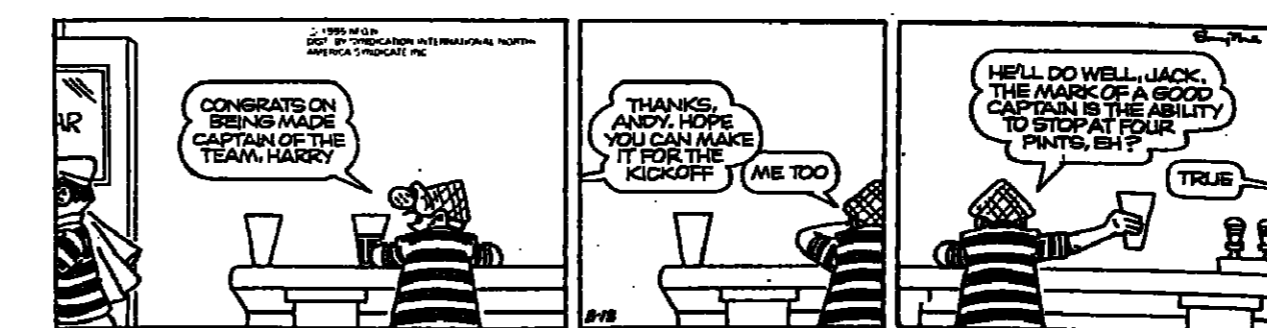
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 - V-shaped fortification
 - Building
 - Tool with a curved blade
 - Colorist
 - Bullet type
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 - Indigent
 - Torn
 - Chemical compound
 - Lateen
 - Ballroom dance
 - "The World According to —"
 - Butter kin
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 - Theater sign
 - Microbes
 - Deserve
 - Med. sch. subj.
 - Neckwear
 - Murmur
 - Proofreading word
 - Deny
 - Garland
 - Flooring piece
 - Charm
 - John or Abigail
 - The Furies
 - Allocates
 - Extended
 - narrative poem
 - Pier support
 - Nicholas or Alexander
 - Topic
 - Macaw
 - A Harrison



Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Try not to forego some lucrative new venture because you may have a secret worry this morning, and later today concentrate on confidential matters.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Handle some responsibility early so that later today you can gain some cherished wish and go after it without worry.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Don't permit some unscrupulous partner to keep you from doing your tasks or you can get into trouble.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Some dull task should not be permitted to deter you from making better plans for later today for you to be successful.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Forget that good time you have in mind today and concentrate on whatever is practical and later tonight improve your position in life.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Some home task can be postponed for later today so that you can come to a better meeting of minds with fellow associates.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Some bothersome missive could keep you from tasks which have to be completed and which have to be completed and which could be lucrative, if you permit.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Put financial affairs aside and try to perfect your talents so that you can increase your income later today.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Try to be more helpful to your loved ones and place your own desires on the back burner today. Entertain at home this evening.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Forget that personal wish for this morning and handle business affairs which are pressing efficiently. Be careful in motion on the highway.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Avoid that friend who is loquacious and could take up much of your favourable time today, or you could lose out.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get busy and try to realise your personal aims and forego outside activities as much as you can today, as they are a distraction.

Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

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HOROSCOPE

PRECAST FOR
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by Thomas S. P.
astrologer, Carol R.
Foundation

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Business Daily Beat

Investment Promotion Law benefits 107 projects capitalised at JD270m

NEW PROJECTS which benefitted from the Investment Promotion Law from the beginning of this year until Aug. 2, 1995, carry a total capital of JD 270.3 million spread over 107 projects. Seventy projects, capitalised at JD 242.9 million, were classified as "certified economic" projects while the other 37 projects, capitalised at JD 27.4 million, were classified as only "economic". Both types of projects were backed by loans amounting to JD 92.03 million of which JD 83.9 million were for the certified economic projects. Short-term financing for the overall number of projects totalled JD 21.35 million of which the share for the certified economic projects was JD 20.23 million. Foreign financing amounted only to the equivalent of JD 370,000.

The statistics, announced by the general manager of the Investment Promotion Department, also show that the total value of fixed assets, exempted from customs, for all the projects was JD 127.6 million. JD 107.7 million of which were for certified economic projects.

According to the General Manager, Assem Hindawi, the 107 projects are expected to provide 7,281 employment opportunities and to have a production volume worth JD 237 million of which the share of certified economic projects would be JD 196.3 million. Exports from these projects are expected to total JD 113.6 million. JD 99.5 million of which would be from certified economic projects.

Mr. Hindawi said these projects would require raw materials valued at JD 112.8 million, JD 73.1 million of which to be from local sources and JD 39.7 million from foreign markets. He noted that 88 of the investments were in development area A (Amman and Zarqa), 10 were in development area C (southern region) and nine in development area B (northern and other regions). A breakdown by the type of investment shows the following:

- 1) Five projects to produce pharmaceutical, medical and sanitary products with a total capitalisation at JD 28.6 million
- 2) Twelve chemical projects capitalised at JD 13.96 million
- 3) Twelve engineering projects, capitalised at JD 9.68 million
- 4) Twelve food industries capitalised at JD 10.92 million
- 5) Four paper and office supplies projects capitalised at JD 7.7 million
- 6) Three agricultural and animal wealth projects capitalised at JD 1.6 million
- 7) Three textile projects capitalised at JD 1.2 million
- 8) Two packing and packaging projects capitalised at JD 1.1 million
- 9) Two construction projects capitalised at JD 800,000
- 10) One plastic and rubber project capitalised at JD 560,000
- 11) Eleven hotel projects capitalised at JD 42.7 million
- 12) One hospital project capitalised at JD 100,000
- 13) Economic projects:

- 1) Twenty eight industrial projects capitalised at JD 11.4 million
 - 2) Nine hotels, universities and hospitals capitalised at JD 6.7 million.
- Mr. Hindawi said there was a total of 301 established projects which have benefitted from the Investment Promotion Law. The value of fixed assets, exempted from customs, of all these projects was JD 113.8 million. He pointed out that the Investment Promotion Department has completed feasibility studies on large number of projects in cooperation with major consultancy firms. (Al Dustour).

Analysts: British banks face uphill task to boost profits

LONDON (AFP) — Britain's four largest clearing banks must cut costs or expand to improve performance in this fiercely competitive market, since lower bad debt provisions will no longer boost their results, according to analysts here.

Midland Bank's results on Monday brought the combined half-year profit of the "big four" U.K. clearing banks, Barclays, NatWest, Midland and Lloyds, to a total of £3.25 billion (£5.14 billion), 15 per cent up on the first six months last year.

Barclays performed the best in the pack, posting profits up 8.7 per cent to £1.125 billion, but still less impressive than last year's interim results when it tripled profits.

National Westminster Bank (NatWest), now the number one terms of assets, increased profits by 14 per cent to £872 million.

Lloyds, raised profits by 21 per cent to £735 million and Midland, owned by HSBC Holdings, lifted profits by 19 per cent to £527 million.

"One can question to what extent these results are proof of a real improvement in performance," one analyst said.

"Up to now, the banks have benefited from the recovery of the British economy, which has allowed them to lower their bad debt provisions, with the number of banking staff down by 100,000 over the past five years."

But this situation cannot last, and the clearing banks will have to find other ways of boosting results now, analysts believe.

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Lloyds surprised the market by announcing a general provision of £120 million "as a measure of prudence at this stage of the economic cycle," in the words of the bank's chief executive, Sir Brian Pimman.

This pushed up total provisions for bad and doubtful debts to £261 million from £102 million in the first half of 1994.

And Midland increased provisions by 26 per cent to £68 billion from £54 million.

To boost profits, the banks will have to follow two new paths, according to experts: A reduction in costs and strategy of acquisition accompanied by improved management.

Operating costs at Barclays, for example, rose by nearly 65 per cent in the first half of the year, the analyst pointed out. "There is room for savings there."

The banks should also specialise the specific areas, like Lloyds, which has focused on banking and insurance in Britain, or launch into new activities with high growth potential, analysts advise.

UAE industrial bank under fire over losses

ABU DHABI (AFP) — A United Arab Emirates (UAE) bank created by the federal government to finance non-oil industrial projects has come under fire over poor performance and malpractices by its management.

The Emirates Industrial Bank (EIB), the UAE's only bank to specialise in funding industry, has failed to develop its operations, leading to the erosion of its profits over the past few years, the State Audit office said.

From 18.3 million dirhams (\$4.98 million) in 1991, EIB's net profit declined to 15.5 million dirhams (\$4.22 million) in 1992 and around 8.6 million dirhams (\$2.34 million) in 1993, it said in its annual report.

"As a result, the profits could no longer cover the usual five per cent dividend for shareholders," the report said. "Excluding returns from deposits and the investment portfolio, the bank suffered from a loss of 3.3 million dirhams (\$899,000) in 1993."

EIB was set up 10 years ago with a capital of 150 million dirhams (\$40.8 million) to finance non-oil industrial ventures as part of a UAE campaign to diversify the economy and lessen reliance on volatile oil income.

The bank, owned 60 per cent by the government and the rest by the local private sector, also carries out feasibility studies for industrial projects and provides technical advice and assistance.

The audit office, the watchdog of UAE government financial activities, said EIB continued to concentrate its investment in bank deposits, which stood at around 496 million dirhams (\$135.1 million) at the end of 1993.

"EIB's activities have remained unchanged as they are still confined to extending loans and economic advice to clients. It has failed to develop and upgrade operations or diversify its investment," it said. "The bank also lacks adequate auditing of its performance or plans that determine priorities in financing the industrial sector."

The report said the management earmarked 400,000 dirhams (\$109,000) as bonuses for its members from the 1993 budget. "This sum was included in the 1993 expenses because the profits were not enough to allocate bonuses. The management is called on to return that sum to the net profits."

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U.S. airlines soar back into profit

WASHINGTON (AFP) — U.S. airlines are soaring back into profit after years in the doldrums, but companies fear higher fuel prices, due later this year, could undermine recovery.

U.S. carriers, which lost some \$13 billion since 1990, are expected to turn a \$1 billion profit this year, according to Christopher Chiamies of the Air Transport Association of America, an industry group.

"It's been a painful process to bring the industry back to equilibrium," he said, pointing to the laying off some 120,000 employees and other cost-cutting measures, including reducing the number of aircraft.

But the industry now fears the government will take advantage of this return to profitability to impose a fuel tax which would cost companies an extra \$330 million a year, said Mr. Chiamies, whose association represents 20 major airlines accounting for 95 per cent of passenger traffic.

The fuel tax came into being in 1993, but airlines were granted a two-year exemption because of their financial difficulties. It is now slated to apply to airlines as of October.

"Although industry operating profits were up last year, and better results are expected this year, much of the improvement is due to lower fuel prices, which are near a 10 year low," according to a Moody's Investors report.

"In 1994, lower fuel prices made up over half of the industry's operating profits," the report said.

But "airlines are still pushing for productivity gains" and seeking to win pay cuts from employees in return for stock, said Gill Gallagher of the Association of Flight Attendants, which represents 36,000 cabin crew from 26 airlines.

Most airlines agree that yields — the ratio of passengers compared to the number of seats on planes — were getting better.

"The Asian market is coming back" and the Latin American market is "excellent," said Tony Molinaro, a spokesman for United Airlines.

"The trans-Atlantic market is still a little shaky," but "overall yields are going up" and "fare wars are very limited" in scope, he said.

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 14/08/1995

COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES	OPENING PRICE	TRADING PRICE	14/08/1995	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
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ARAB BANK PIC	380	81360	213,500	214,500		
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	4200	18938	4,510	4,510		
CHICO ARAB BANK	150	677	4,510	4,510		
BANK OF JORDAN	838	1826	3,400	3,400		
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	6450	8146	1,250	1,250		
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	200	765	3,740	3,740		
THE HOUSING BANK	3150	17799	5,600	5,600		
JORDAN KUNAT BANK	250	705	2,750	2,750		
JORDAN GULF BANK	1975	4552	1,140	1,140		
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	1728	1425	3,450	3,450		
UTOM BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	412	1713	4,200	4,180		
BUSINESS BANK	250	963	3,830	3,850		
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	332	1345	4,040	4,050		
BEIT ELAL SAVING/INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	2600	6870	3,450	3,450		
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT	21400	22470	1,040	1,050		
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	663	3527	5,500	5,320		
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	4300	6986	1,590	1,620		

BANKS SECTOR	51028	187126	INDEX NUMBER: 179.46	CHANGE: +0.631
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INSURANCE SECTOR	543	1563	INDEX NUMBER: 133.64	CHANGE: +0.007
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SERVICES SECTOR	51061	98944	INDEX NUMBER: 127.21	CHANGE: +0.661
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INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	80462	205075	INDEX NUMBER: 127.65	CHANGE: +0.491
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GRAND TOTAL	193094	492708	INDEX NUMBER: 153.26	CHANGE: +0.581
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NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET : 168581
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET : 130050

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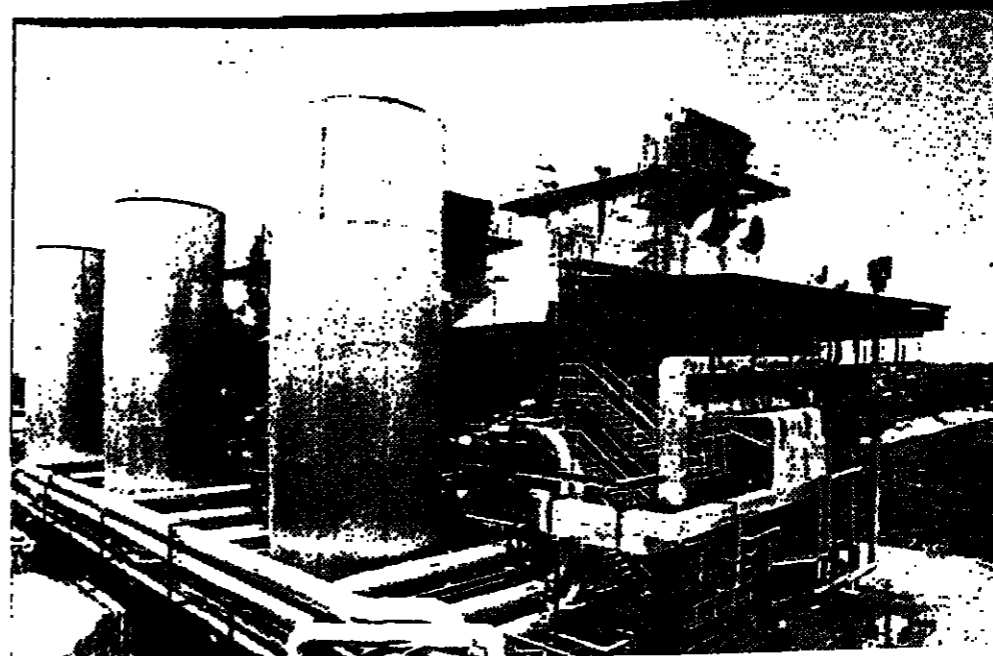
Growth of Indian economy

According to the Economic Survey, the year 1994-95 saw the fastest growth of Indian economy in the last four years. After the crisis-induced low growth of 0.9 per cent in 1991-92, the economy had already responded smartly to wide-ranging reform measures to record growth of 4.3 per cent in each of the years 1992-93 and 1993-94.

The current year has seen an acceleration of growth to 5.3 per cent led by strong, broad-based industrial growth of around 8 per cent and supported by a robust agricultural performance. The performance of the external sector continued to be strong with exports growing by more than 17 per cent in dollar terms in the first ten months of the



Panoramic view of India pavilion at India International trade Fair -95, New Delhi



National Thermal Power Corporation: Gas Power Station in Kota, Rajasthan State.



Miss World, Ms. Aishwarya Rai displaying Indian jewellery

year, the balance on invisibles climbing to over a billion dollars in the first six months of the year and foreign investment (direct plus portfolio) of \$3.9 billion in April-December, 1994. Despite a surge in non-oil imports reflecting the strong industrial recovery, the current account deficit in the balance of payments is unlikely to exceed half a per cent of GDP in 1994-95 and foreign currency reserves have risen by over \$4.5 billion since the beginning of the financial year as of February 13, 1995.

The remarkable progress made by the Indian economy, since the difficult days of the 1991 economic crisis can be gauged by the fact that industrial production, which virtually stagnated in 1991-92, is expected to grow by 8 per cent in 1994-95, foodgrains production had declined to 168 million tonnes in 1991-92, it is expected to attain a record high of 185 million tonnes in 1994-95. From a level of hardly one billion dollars in June 1991, foreign currency reserves had climbed to over \$19.5 billion in mid-February 1995.

In India, private investment appears to have responded much more positively to reform policies. A number of measures have been announced to facilitate private entry into areas of infrastructure which were formerly the preserve of the public sector, with a view to freeing scarce

public resources for social sectors. These include natural resource sectors and non-tradable infrastructure services such as electricity, internal transport and telecommunications. Among

important developments are, 13 minerals were de-reserved for exploitation by private sector, in power sector, for generation of 58745 megawatts of power, private air taxi operation with nine such

operators granted "scheduled airline" status etc. The economic survey makes out a strong case for lifting quantitative curbs on consumer goods imports and further tailoring the foreign in-

vestment policy to attract from abroad the "wave of labour-intensive consumer goods producers which generated high growth of exports and employment in south-east Asia and China.

India: A friend and partner

By Sayel Khataybeh

INDIA AND Jordan today enjoy extremely cordial and friendly relations based on the principles of the Non-Aligned Movement and the United Nations charter. Apart from being the lands of ancient civilisations, both India and Jordan stepped as sovereign, independent states in world politics almost simultaneously, Jordan in 1946, and India in 1947. India is the biggest market for phosphates and potash after the Gulf war, when India became number one in its trade exchange with Jordan.

From 1990 to 1995 India's total imports from

Jordan reached \$758 million. Trade exchange was always been in favour of Jordan, which represents a strong and dose trading partner with India.

On the cultural and educational level, India accommodates thousands of Jordanian students and every year Jordanian students go on scholarships to pursue higher education at Indian universities.

The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme enrolls 10 Jordanian students yearly for training and other programmes. Agreements have been signed between the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and the Council of Scientific Society (CSIR), in India.

Congratulations On the occasion of

the Independence Day of India

Mohammad Said Kalash has the pleasure to extend his heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the Indian President and people, wishing them and their leadership every success and progress.

Mohammad Said Kalash
Amman, Jordan



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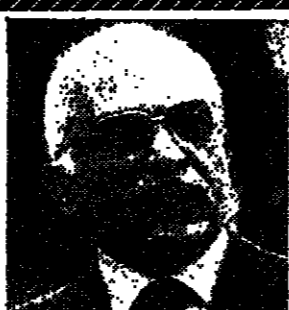
Manufacturers of TATA Buses in Jordan

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and the people of India

on the occasion of the

INDEPENDENCE DAY



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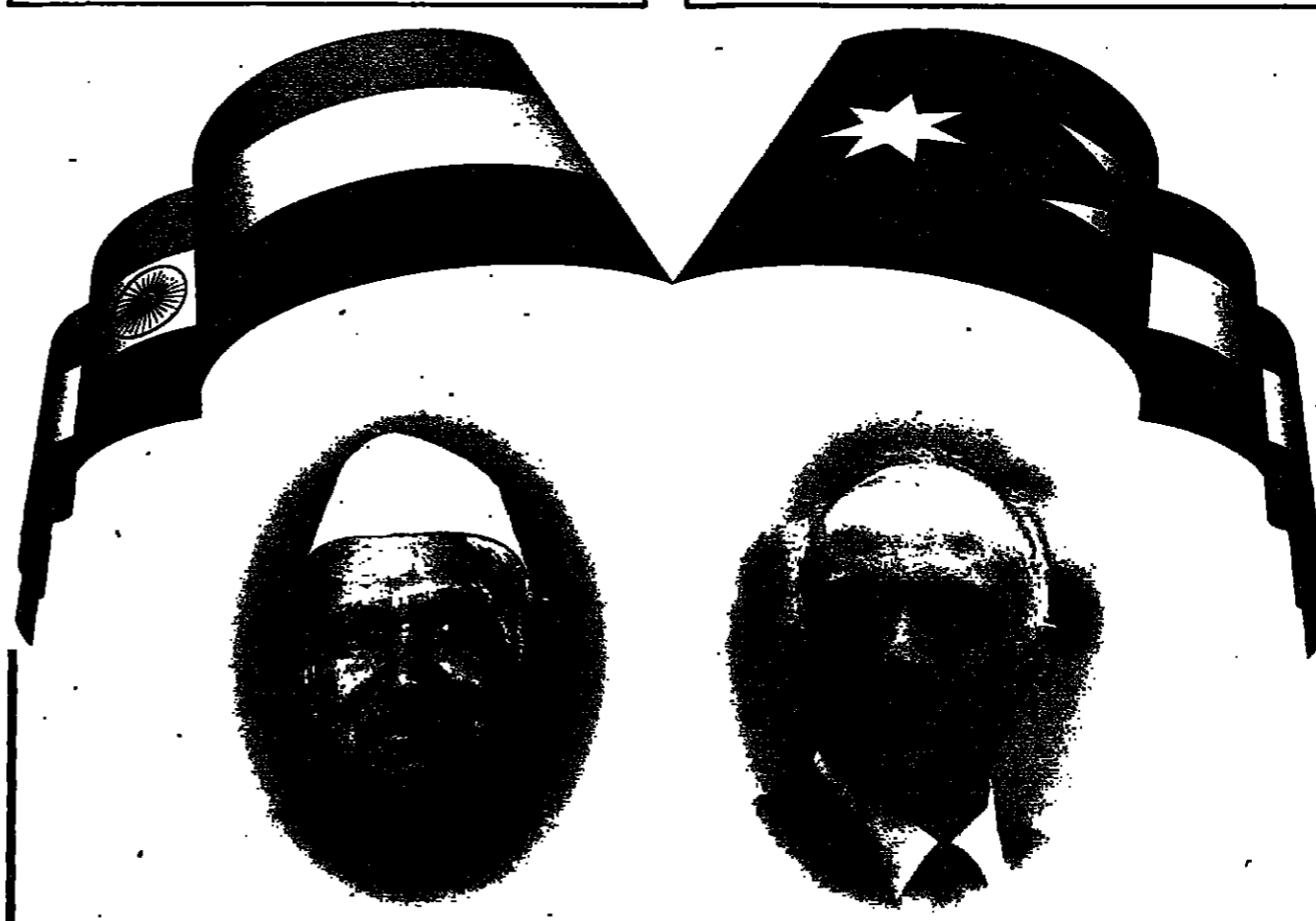
wishing the president and people of India continued
health and progress.

On the occasion of the Independence Day of India Indo-Jordan Scholars Club

conveys its hearty greeting to the
government and the Indian people

On the occasion of the Independence Day of India Kawar Drug Store

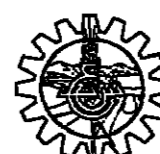
conveys its hearty greeting to the
government and the Indian people



Jordan Fertilizer Industry Coordination Committee



Jordan Phosphate
Mines Company



Arab Potash
Company

Wish the people of India a happy
Independence day affirming Jordanian
friendship and hopes of continued progress
and prosperity

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Indian Ocean...
loftiest mountain...
guard. At its...
Ganges...
India is a...
follows the...
Administrative...
centrally admin...
seventh large...
largest popu...
spoken all o...

City Language
Bangalore (Kannada)
Bombay (Marathi)
Calcutta (Bengali)
Coimbatore (Tamil)
Delhi (Hindi)
Hyderabad (Telugu)
Madras (Tamil)
Pune (Marathi)

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Extend felicitations
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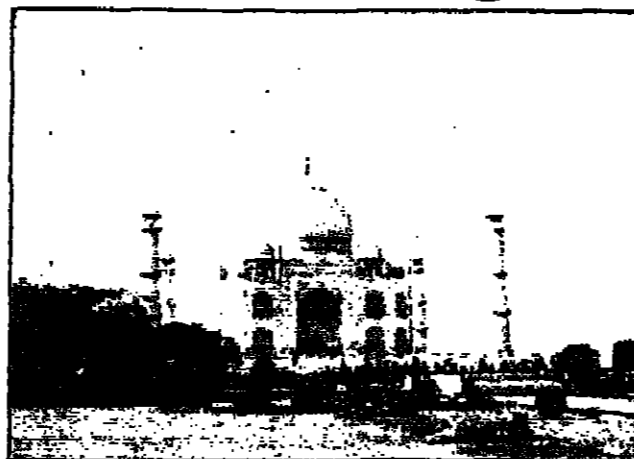
India at a glance

India is a country with a great cultural and geographical diversity. The peninsula is caressed by the Indian Ocean in the south, and in the north, the loftiest mountains of the world, the Himalayas, stand guard. At its heart are the fertile alluvial plains of the Ganges.

India is a Sovereign Democratic Republic, and follows the Parliamentary System of Government. Administratively, it comprises 26 states and 6 centrally administered Union Territories. India is the seventh largest nation in the world with the second largest population. Hindi and English are widely spoken all over the country.

Major Cities

City	Local Language	Population (millions)	Temperature (max.)	(min.)
Bangalore	(Kannada)	5.1	38°C	15°C
Bombay	(Marathi)	12.8	33°C	16°C
Calcutta	(Bengali)	10.9	36°C	18°C
Chennai	(Tamil)	1.1	35°C	14°C
Delhi	(Hindi)	10	45°C	5°C
Hyderabad	(Telugu)	4.3	39°C	7°C
Kolkata	(Bengali)	5.4	38°C	13°C
Mumbai	(Marathi)	1.5	38°C	12°C



Statistical Profile

Area: 3,329 Million Square Kilometres
Population: 900 million
GDP at current prices (1993-94): U.S.\$225 billion.
Per Capita Income U.S.\$220.7

Exports (1993-94): U.S.\$22.50 billion

Imports (1993-94): U.S.\$23.58 billion

Major Exports: Tea, Coffee, Marine Products, Iron Ore, Cotton Fabrics and Readymade Garments, Leather and leather products, Gems and Jewellery, Machinery, Transport Equipments and Metal manufactures including Iron and Steel, Petroleum products etc.

Major Imports: Fertilizers, Edible oils, Nonferrous metals, Petroleum products and related material, Iron and Steel, Pearls, Precious and Semi-precious stones, Machinery and Transport Equipment, Organic and Inorganic Chemicals etc.

Currency Unit:

Rupee
1 Rupee = 100 paise

Exchange Rate: U.S.\$1 = Rs. 31 (approx.)

International Airports: New Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Hyderabad, Thiruvananthapuram, Bangalore



On the occasion of the Independence Day of India

Dr. Naser Al Maaitah, director of Zarqa University Services Est.

conveys its hearty greeting to the government and the Indian people

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Independence Day of India



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King: Time for change in Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

"I cannot really say what he is going to do, but the people of Iraq will answer to the fact that something needs to be done and he can stay here as long as he wishes. He might visit some Arab states in the coming period, but nothing has been decided yet. We try to do what we can to ensure his safety as a guest."

Ekeus to go to Iraq soon

(Continued from page 1) were close to Gen. Hassan and some to former Interior Minister Watan Ibrahim Hassan, President Saddam's half-brother who was sacked in May and wounded last week in a shooting "accident," according to an Iraqi paper. Iraq said meanwhile Gen. Hassan defected after he lost a power struggle within President Saddam's government and that the country's enemies were "betting on a losing horse."

Palestinians vow revenge

(Continued from page 1)

However, since the 1993 autonomy accord with Israel, the 18-member committee has never failed to endorse a move by Mr. Arafat. Mr. Arafat arrived in the Tunisian capital on Monday for the meeting of the Executive Committee and a parallel meeting of the Central Committee of his own Fateh faction of the PLO. The head of the hardline Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) told AFP that nine of the 18 members of the executive committee would boycott the meeting, making it "illegal." Palestinian groups opposed to the peace process have attacked the agreements.

'Jordan-Iraq ties normal'

(Continued from page 1)

"Jordan would not allow to that," he said. "We have enough loyalty and nationalism that commit us to keep Iraqi secrets," he said.

The prime minister said that the visits of foreign officials to the country this week were prearranged and were not linked to Gen. Hassan's defection.

On Saturday, the commander of the American Central Command, Lieutenant General James Henry Peay, visited the Kingdom. The British Minister of State for the Armed Forces Nicholas Soames, visited Jordan Sunday and Monday.

"The American official's visit had been planned six months ago" Sharif Zeid said. "The purpose of the visit was coordination of military exercises planned years ago," he said. "As for the British minister, his visit to Jordan was part of a tour in the region."

In interviews with the Jordan Times after the meeting

received assurances from the government that Jordan will not let Iraqi opposition use Jordan as a base to conduct any activity against Iraq," he said.

However, Hamzeh Mansour, an Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputy, said the government avoided many of the deputies' questions.

Leftist Deputy Toujan Faisal said the government's reaction was very traditional. "There is nothing decisive about it," she said. "It was very general."

Bassam Emoush, another IAF deputy, criticised Minister of Information Khaled Karaki for broadcasting Gen. Hassan's press conference on Saturday on Jordan Television "three times in full." He said that the minister and the

government should not have given the Iraqi general such media access and coverage.

"If we had a strong Parliament, it would have demanded the government's resignation," he said.

Dr. Emoush told the Jordan Times that during the meeting, some deputies also criticised Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, accusing him of trying to improve Jordan's relations with the Gulf states at the expense of its relations with Iraq.

"He (Mr. Kabariti) laughed and advised us to be patient," Dr. Emoush said. "You should wait and see, there are things in the way," Dr. Emoush quoted the foreign minister as saying.

He also quoted the prime minister as saying that the visit of Saudi Prince Turki Al Faisal to Jordan on Saturday was related to Gen. Hassan.

"Jordan has hosted political asylum seekers before, why did not they receive the same treatment?" Dr. Emoush asked. "If the general wants to launch a coup d'etat why doesn't he go to the north of Iraq and launch it from there?"

Lower House Speaker Sa'd Hayel Srour dismissed all insinuations that Jordan was seeking to improve its ties with Saudi Arabia at the expense of its relations with Iraq.

"Jordan is working on improving its relations with Saudi Arabia for a long time," Mr. Srour told the Jordan Times. "But we have

never built relations with a country at the expense of another."

In a statement issued by Parliament following the meeting and read by Mr. Srour, parliamentarians confirmed that "this event has no political implications on the Jordanian-Iraqi relationship and that Jordan continues to maintain the same policy towards Iraq, especially in its efforts to lift the embargo on the Iraqi people, to keep open borders between the two countries and not to allow any activity to be carried out from the Jordanian land that is in contradiction with the country's principles and beliefs that are based on non-interference with other countries' internal affairs."

Mr. Soames also defended his country's position in refusing to lift the arms embargo on Bosnia, saying such a move will only lead to an escalation of hostilities.

The Organisation of Islamic Conference, frustrated at the failure of the U.N. to protect Bosnian Muslims, last month said it considers the arms embargo invalid and urged its lifting.

Soames ends visit to Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

World of the West's policies towards Bosnia.

The British official brushed aside suggestions the war in Bosnia is a religious war, insisting that it is a multi-ethnic conflict and adding that Britain aims to end the fighting within the con-

text of a multi-ethnic state.

Mr. Soames, who also had talks with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker on bilateral ties and the situation in Yugoslavia, said that his tour of the region was prompted by Britain's alarm at what he described as the lack of appreciation and understanding of its efforts to find a "just and lasting solution" to the war

in the rump Yugoslavia. He said Britain never abandoned its responsibility in former Yugoslavia. The British official reiterated Western views that there can be no military solution to the conflict in former Yugoslavia and that a diplomatic settlement is the only realistic approach.

World Athletics Championships

Johnson is America's tower of power

Arab World celebrates gold by Morceli, Boulmerka and Shoua'a

GOETHEBURG (AFP) — Michael Johnson may have towered over the athletics world championships here, but the United States failed in their bid for total global domination.

Instead, the 10-day extravaganza danced to a pulsating Calypso Haitian born Bruny Surin exercised the ghost of Ben Johnson by taking gold and silver in the 100m, and then led Canada to victory in the 4x100m relay.

Glory was not confined to those who deserted their birthplaces, Jamaica's Merlene Ottey, the nearly woman of sprinting over the last 15 years, gained a bonus gold medal to add to her 200m success in 1993 at Stuttgart as she denied Gwen Torrence a sprint double. The American was disqualified from the 200m after stepping out of her lane on the bend.

Troy Kemp of the Bahamas deposed Cuba's Javier Sotomayor in the high jump, Cuba's Ivan Pedroso did the same to American Mike Powell in the long jump and there were surprise medals for Trinidad's world junior sprint champion Ato Boldon in the 100m, Bahamas' Pauline Davis in the 400m and Jamaican James Beckford in the long jump.

To round it all off the Cuban "comeback kid" Ana Fidelia Quirot won the 800 metres. Barely three years after she all but died in a domestic accident she proved a class apart from her rivals.

Failure through injury was to curse many of what may now be considered "yesterday's stars".

Lanford Christie made a valiant attempt to retain his 100 metre title with a hamstring injury while Carl Lewis, who never made the long jump, Heike Drechsler who spiked her leg in the heptathlon and Jackie

Joyner-Kersey, who went home after the long jump added to the roster of disappointments.

Even the mighty Kenyans left Sweden under something of a cloud.

Moses Kiptanui completed a hat-trick of world titles in the 3,000m steeplechase and Ismael Kirui kept his 5,000m title, but Ethiopian Haile Gebrselassie denied them the coveted 10,000m prize and Wilson Kipketer — Kenyan born and bred but now a successful export — won the 800m for Denmark.

Sergei Bubka bucked the trend, completing a clean sweep of all five pole vault titles since the world championships started in 1983.

And Algerian Noureddine Morceli, holder of four world records, proved he is one of the greatest middle distance runners of all time by romping home for a third consecutive 1,500m title.

Smiling Sonia O'Sullivan buried the ghost of her Stuttgart defeat to the Chinese team, absent in Gothenburg, by winning the 5,000m and becoming the first Irish woman to win a world title.

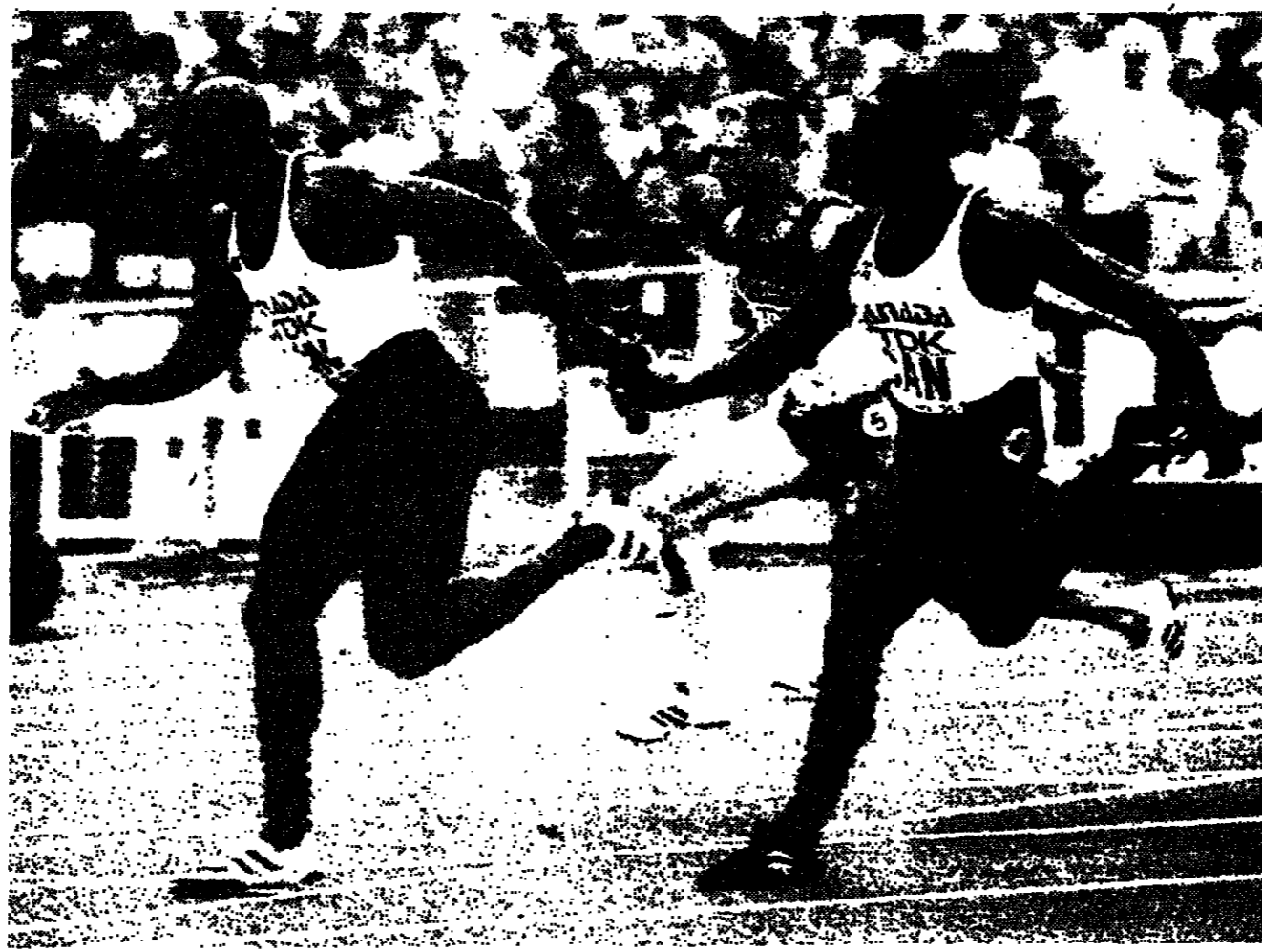
But for the United States, it was a bitter-sweet championship.

They utterly dominated the medals table and the Johnson express train completed its historic 200/400m double right on schedule, and then stopped off for a 4x400m gold on the last day.

But Americans botched the glamour events they hold most dear.

For the first time since the 1976 Olympics, there was no American among the men's 100m medals. Mike Marsh, the only one to make it to the final, summed up his feelings in the starting blocks: "Lonely."

Their 4x100m relay, unbeaten in world cham-



Canada's Bruny Surin (right) hands the relay to Donovan Bailey to win the men's 4x100m final (AFP photo)

pionship history, performed a repeat of their Olympic fiasco seven years ago, going out in the qualifiers after bungling the changeover.

In Seoul, they dropped the baton. In Gothenburg, the baton never made it from Jon Drummond to Theo McCall, who ran out of the changeover area.

"I put my hand out. It never came. The rest is history," said McCall after the humiliation.

And three steps may lead some to heaven but they led Torrence to hell in the 200m. The 30-year-old unwittingly trod on the line several times as she rounded the bend, before hitting the straight with an awesome display of power running.

Torrence had the last laugh on the elegant 35 year old Jamaican, beating her down the final straight as she anchored the USA to victory in the 4x100m relay.

On the brighter side, Kim Batten set a 400m hurdles world record as she edged fellow American Tonja Buford by one hundredths of a second.

Both women were well inside the previous mark set by



Noureddine Morceli (left) of Algeria is embraced by Moroccan Hicham El Guerrouj after the men's 1500m final (AFP photo)

Sally Gunnell, absent through injury, when the Englishwoman won the title in Stuttgart two years ago.

The race was also deprived of French gazelle Marie-Jose Perce, who retained her

major championships. Algeria did the 1,500m double with Morceli romping home and Hassiba Boulmerka outstripping Britain's Kelly Holmes down the home straight in the women's event. Boulmerka was fortunate that O'Sullivan the fastest woman in the world this year decided not to double up.

Syrian Ghad Shoua'a won the heptathlon, and there were gusty medal performances from Moroccan Khalid Skah, Saudi Arabian Sa'ed Shaddad Al-Asmari and Moroccan Zohra Quaziz and up-and-coming Hicham El Guerrouj.

But world championships, like the Olympics, are for heroes.

And the Ullevi stadium crowd were fortunate to have two to worship here.

Johnson, with his astonishing double, completed at near world record speeds despite a schedule of eight races in seven days, was one of them.

Even if he fails to repeat the feat at the Atlanta Olympics, Johnson has already made his mark in the history of sport. The Texan's short-step, straight-backed style may look comical, but it's not a joke his rivals found amusing.

The other hero is from another planet.

The big stars may be millionaire Texans and Californians, but a vicar's son from the sleepy English seaside resort of Ilfracombe showed the other side of athletics.

Jonathan Edwards, who for years refused to compete on Sundays, shattered his own triple jump world record with his opening leap and then that with his second jump. He later apologised to the other athletes.

His faith is the key to his success.

"I can step back and think 'Well, it's great and it's exciting, but there are more important things and things of lasting value.'"

"What I really want to do — is to glorify God with my life, to be a good husband and be a good father."



Jamaica's Beverly McDonald gives the relay to Merlene Ottey (left) as Christie Gaines passes to Gusen Torrence during the women's 4x100m relay final which was won by the U.S. (AFP photo)

Swimmers seek China Olympic ban

ATLANTA (AFP) — Swimmers from four nations called for China to be banned from the 1996 Olympic pool without a tougher drug testing programme and blasted world governing body FINA for inaction harmful to the sport.

"If their use of drugs is as widespread as it seems to be, they shouldn't be there," said Australia's Kieren Perkins, men's world record holder in the 400m, 800m and 1,500m freestyles.

Swimmers from Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States spoke out here Sunday on the final day of the Pan Pacific Championships. Absent from the group were swimmers from Japan, Asia's founding PanPac member.

China was banned from this meet for 19 positive drug tests over the past four years, during which time the nation's women became a world swim power. Swimmers here called for an in-depth investigation of China's swim programme to ensure a drug-free centennial Olympic meet.

"I've heard lots of talk about China. It's time somebody took a positive step," Perkins said. "FINA is not doing anything about it. It has gotten very good. This is staining the name of swimming in the world while nothing is being done. If nothing is done within a few years, it will be seen as a sport of drugged-up athletes."

John Leonard, World Swimming Coaches Association anti-doping committee chairman, announced a plan, backed by the swimmers, which calls for unannounced out-of-competition testing on all possible Olympic swimmers starting in January to ensure there are no drug cheats at the Olympics.

"This is the first great step to make sure the sport is clean," U.S. backstrokeer Brian Rutter said. "These people are cheating and it affects history. It cheats everyone involved."

Australia's Nicole Stevenson, the 1992 Olympic 200m backstroke bronze medalist, wonders who among her rivals might have escaped drug detection. She wants tighter testing within China's borders.

"It was like this with East Germany until the (Berlin) wall came down," she said. "I don't think the wall, or the communists, in China will fall. We have to have rules so people can get in there and see what is going on. If we don't, it's just going to encourage (cheating by) other nations who haven't had good performances."

The coaches group proposes all nations submit to FINA a list of possible Olympic swimmers and money for one drug test by January to allow tests of every Olympian multiple times before the Atlanta Games.

"It's a cheap price to pay for a clean Atlanta," he said. The group, whose 1,200 members from 53 nations include none from China, backed off a threat of legal action to prevent Chinese swimmers from competing at the Olympics.

FINA officials have ignored swimmers to keep the Chinese happy, Leonard charged.

Pan Pacific Swimming
Australia's Riley challenges world mark

ATLANTA (AFP) — World champion Samantha Riley, inspired by anger over an earlier disqualification, nearly came away with a world record at the Pan Pacific Swim Championships here Sunday.

The Australian suffered a controversial ouster from the 100-metre breaststroke Friday but came back to win the 200-metre breaststroke in two minutes, 24.81 seconds. It was the second-fastest time in history and only five hundredths of a second off fellow Aussie Rebecca Brown's world mark.

"I just can't believe it," she said. "I was so determined after what happened two days ago. I was pretty annoyed. I was just waiting for another race to come around to prove they were wrong and I didn't deserve to be disqualified."

"Now I'm disappointed because I think I could have had a chance at the (100m world) record."

Riley later helped the Australian 400m medley relay win gold in 4:02.93, the third-fastest time ever for that event.

Despite being tossed from the 100m for a stroke violation, Riley was named outstanding woman of the meet. Scott Volkner, Riley's coach, saw the ouster as costing her the 200m world mark.

"She lost it on the turn at the 100, where she was being careful because of the DO. She didn't want to take a chance," Volkner said. "I can see her swimming 2:23 pretty easily. She wasn't overly stressed. She will be better next year. She loves the pool here, if not the officials."

Riley was also sick during U.S. training and recovering from a stress fracture in her right ribs even before the disqualification.

"It was amazingly bad preparation," she said. "Everything that could go wrong did. Now I know that no matter what goes wrong at the Olympics here next year, I can handle it."

American Amy Van Dyken also feels ready for anything, even the top Chinese team that was banned from this meet because of 19 positive doping tests over the past four years.

Van Dyken won the 50m freestyle in 25.03 seconds, making her the third fastest woman ever in the event behind China's Le Jingyi and Yang Wenyi. Van Dyken discounts their times as drug-aided although both passed doping tests.

"I'm the only person to swim that fast 'clean,'" Van Dyken said. "That makes me

feel really good."

"Going 25.03 proves that by the Olympics, I will be right there with them. We have proved Americans can compete with the Chinese and even beat their times. That's the most exciting thing to come out of this meet."

Another swimmer anxious to face the Chinese again is Japan's Akira Hayashi, who lowered his national 200m breaststroke record by one-third of a second when he won here in 2:13.60. Hayashi became last year's Asian Games champion in the event when his Chinese conqueror later failed a doping test. "I don't know about the doping controls here but I think the Olympic events will be fine and we will be competing in Games that will be fair. Justice will be done," Hayashi said. "I don't regret I lost to the Chinese. I feel I can compete with the Chinese."

Australia's Hayley Lewis is ready for anyone after ending a slump to deny 15-year-old American distance queen Brooke Bennett a sweep of the PanPac distance titles. Lewis won the 800m freestyle in 8:28.78, edging Bennett by 43-hundredths of a second after Bennett beat her in the 400m and 1,500m.

"I needed a win," Lewis said. "I was glad. It has done a lot to boost my confidence. 'Coming into the meet I felt good, but I started to get sick and when I woke up for the 1,500m I felt awful. I had a bad stomach virus. I rang up my mom and had a good cry on the phone. She said do your best and I felt better as the meet went on.'"

Triple men's distance world record holder Kieren Perkins of Australia denied countryman Dan Kowalski his fourth gold medal, winning the 1,500m freestyle in 14:58.92 to win by 3.28 seconds. Perkins has struggled to regain his form after an illness six weeks ago kept him out of the pool.

"My stroke has been good here," he said. "Fitness is where I'm lacking. The times have been a little better than I thought. I didn't think I would do this well."

American Gary Hall won his third and fourth gold medals to lead the meet. After earlier winning the 100m and helping the U.S. 400m freestyle relay to a world record, Hall took the 50m free in 22.30 seconds and helped the 400m medley relay to victory in 3:37.04.

The U.S. team had 42 medals, including 15 gold and 16 silver. Australia won 13 golds and 12 silvers on the way to 34 total. Japan was third with 13 medals, four gold and two silver.

The final medal table after Sunday's competition at the World Championships:

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
United States	12	2	5	19
Belarus	2	3	2	7
Germany	2	2	2	6
Italy	2	2	2	6
Cuba	2	2	0	4
Kenya	2	1	3	6
Canada	2	1	1	4
Portugal	2	1	1	4
Ukraine	2	0	1	3
Algeria	2	0	0	2
Russia	1	4	7	12
Jamaica	1	4	2	7
Britain	1	3	1	5
Bulgaria	1	1	1	3
Finland	1	1	1	3
Bahamas	1	1	0	2
Spain	1	1	0	2
Ethiopia	1	1	0	2
France	1	0	2	3
Ireland	1	0	0	1
Tajikistan	1	0	0	1
Czech Republic	1	0	0	1
Denmark	1	0	0	1
Syria	1	0	0	1
Morocco	0	3	1	4
Romania	0	2	0	2
Australia	0	1	1	2
Burundi	0	1	1	2
Zambia	0	1	0	1
China	0	1	0	1
Kazakhstan	0	1	0	1
Namibia	0	1	0	1
Bermuda	0	1	0	1
Mexico	0	1	0	1
Surinam	0	1	0	1
Poland	0	0	2	2
Hungary	0	0	2	2
Trinidad	0	0	1	1
Dominica	0	0	1	1
Norway	0	0	1	1
Saudi Arabia	0	0	1	1
Brazil	0	0	1	1
Nigeria	0	0	1	1

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Martinez beats Rubin in Acura Classic final

MANHATTAN BEACH (R) — Spaniard Conchita Martinez overcame American Chanda Rubin 4-6 6-1 6-3 in the final of the Acura Classic on Sunday to claim her second title in two weeks and her sixth of the year.

Martinez earned \$79,500 while Rubin, who also lost in the final at Eastbourne this year, received \$35,500.

The second-seeded Martinez, who has won 10 of her last 11 finals, made a slow start and it was the 10th-seeded Rubin who looked the more committed player.

With her confidence high after scoring upset wins over Argentina's Gabriela Sabatini and top seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain, Rubin showed in adventurous spirit as early as the first game, putting Martinez under pressure by pulling her wide and attempting a dropshot.

It was no surprise when the 19-year-old American broke to lead 3-2 with a double-handed crosscourt backhand. Although Martinez produced an occasional threat, she looked lethargic and often underhit the ball.

Martinez added a little more pace to the ball as the set progressed but was unable to do any damage and failed to earn a break point.

Rubin had a good opportunity to consolidate her position when she held a break point as the second set got underway but Martinez made



Conchita Martinez

her stretch for a forehand, which the American dumped into the net.

At game point in the next game, Rubin double-faulted, then hit a dropshot short and netted a forehand to give Martinez a 2-0 lead. Although she had by now lost her early drive and momentum, she did have a chance to pull herself back out of trouble at 1-3, but put a backhand long on break point.

Rubin remained competitive in the final set, but it was Martinez who made the classy shots, hitting some excellent passing shots and some deep serves. A beautifully struck crosscourt backhand gave her a break for 3-2, and she finished off the match by breaking Rubin to love.

"In the first set she played unbelievably. She was really aggressive and coming in," said Martinez. "In the second I tried to be patient and play some high balls. I served quite well, too, and that was a help."

Rubin could draw satisfaction from one of the best weeks of her life, which has seen her achieve a career-

high ranking of 15. But she knew she could have done better.

"I'm a little critical of my double-fault on game point (at 0-1 in the second set), and that turned the match," said Rubin. "There were a few games in the second set I had game points, but she played well."

"Maybe I could have come in a little more, and getting some more first serves in would definitely have helped. But there wasn't much I could do about her passing shots."

Agassi upsets Chang in final of ATP championships

MASON, Ohio (R) — Red-hot Andre Agassi, the number one player in the world, won his third successive summer tournament on Sunday, a 7-5, 6-2 victory over fourth seed Michael Chang at the \$1.8 million ATP championship.

Chang, trying to capture this tournament for the third year in a row, played good tennis in the 1 hour 36 minutes match but could do nothing to challenge the top-seeded Agassi, who now leads 9-3 in their career meetings.

It was another intensely hot day with on-court temperatures soaring to over 120-degrees Fahrenheit (50 Celsius).

"Neither one of us played at 100 per cent intensity," Agassi said. "It was brutal out there with the heat. I won the first set, that was the big difference."

The \$254,000 victory was Agassi's 30th career title and his sixth of the year. He had not won that many events in one year since 1988. His match record this year is 60-7.

Chang, who earned \$133,800 as runner-up and was hoping to capture his 22nd career title, came off a tough week at this event in suburban Cincinnati.

In the quarter-finals, he saved two match points against 11th-seeded American Jim Courier and came back from one-set down in the semifinals over eighth-seeded German Michael Stich.

Sunday's final was the first time since 1979 that two American-born competitors

competed for the ATP championship title.

And it was the first time that the number one player in the world won since the tournament moved to this site in 1979.

Aware that only an aggressive attitude could possibly beat Agassi, Chang was tried to win big on his service games.

The strategy wound up giving Agassi a whopping 17 opportunities to break serve. Agassi took advantage four times — in the third and 11th games of the first set and the fifth and seventh games of the second set.

"Giving anyone that many opportunities is not good," Chang said. "Sooner or later, they're going to capitalise on a chance."

The players exchanged ear-

ly breaks in the first set, but then Agassi captured the necessary break in the 11th game at 30-40 with a winning forehand drive.

"I'm 57-1 every time I've won the first set this year," Agassi said. "With Michael, it's not how good a shape he's in, it's just how determined he is. I just wanted to put him away in the first set."

In match-ups between Agassi and Chang, the winner of the first set has won the match 11 of 12 times.

When Agassi scored a service break on his fourth break point of the fifth game in the second set with a backhand half-volley drop shot, Chang was through.

Agassi nearly ended the match on a spectacular shot, hitting the ball through his legs while running back-

wards past the baseline. The ball ended up landing about two inches outside Chang's baseline.

But Agassi easily took his second match point, two points later, when Chang hit a service return long.

Muster takes San Marino final

SAN MARINO (R) — Austrian top seed Thomas Muster crushed Italian number one Andrea Gaudenzi 6-2, 6-0 in the final of the San Marino Open on Sunday to clinch his ninth title of a golden season.

Muster and Gaudenzi are both coached and managed by Ronnie Leites but the Austrian world number three showed his Italian friend no mercy as he completed an emphatic win to repeat his 1993 success on the clay in San Marino.

The presence of Gaudenzi, born a short drive from the mountain republic in the Italian town of Faenza, helped to ensure a capacity crowd of 3,000.

But they will have gone home disappointed with the performance of the Italian Davis Cup player, seeded two here but now ranked only 25th in the world.

Gaudenzi struggled to hold his own serve and made no impact when the muscular Muster was serving, failing to create any break points.

The Italian said that a shoulder injury had given him some problems without attempting to use that as an excuse for his heavy defeat.

For French Open champion Muster it was a welcome return to winning ways after his upset defeat by Spaniard Alberto Costa in the final of his home Austrian Open last Sunday.

U-22 basketball championship playoffs Ahli tame Orthodoxi 87-64 Orthodoxi take on Jazireh tonight

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An interesting match awaits basketball fans tonight when Al Orthodoxi take on titleholders Al Jazireh on the second day of the playoffs in the Kingdom's Under-22 basketball championship.

The playoffs got off to an explosive start when Al Ahli overcame Al Orthodoxi 87-64 late Sunday night to prove they are a strong contender for the title.

In an earlier match, Al Jazireh had no trouble overcoming surprise qualifiers Al Yarmouk 92-42. Al Ahli's players delighted the good number of fans attending at Riyadh Ayesha and Zeid Alkhas topped their teams strong showing with captivating slam dunks.

However, the match was marred by a high number of fouls and bad calls by the referees which at one point led Al Orthodoxi's coach Murad Barakat to break a bench chair in frustration. However, even that failed to bring about a good call by the referees.

Al Ahli took a good lead at 23-11 midway through the first half, however Al Orthodoxi's Naser Bassam and brilliant playmaker Fadi Al Saqqa scored three consecutive three-pointers to narrow the gap at 26-20.

Al Orthodoxi then nearly caught up at 35-31, but Al

Ahli took control of the match by securing most rebounding as Riyadh Ayesha led his team to a first half 43-36 win.

Al Ahli outscored Al Orthodoxi 20-6 at the beginning of the second half widening their 51-28 lead to 63-42 by converting a series of turnovers especially after Saqqa went out with a slight injury.

Al Orthodoxi's agile Mahmoud Sha'ban and the team's top scorer and rebounder Mustafa Al Ghoul scored 9 consecutive points but Al Ahli scored by Taimour Al Shamali, Ramez Hammoudeh and Alkhas followed by two three pointers by Ayesha to again take a commanding lead of 79-54.

Al Ahli's head coach Alexander Sasha then allowed key players some rest and gave bench players a chance to test their skills. Al Orthodoxi's Ghoul continued to rebound and score together with Sha'ban as most of their teammates were unsuccessful and were held low scoring seeming unaccustomed to Al Ahli's unofficial slippery court which also lacks a 30-second clock.

Teams eliminated in the first round of the tournament were Al Jeel, Al Ahli, Al Fuhais, Al Wataani, Gazzet Hashem, Al Ashrafieh, Abu Nusair, Al Hussein.

First round results came as follows:

Yarmouk vs. Jeel 94-55.
Orthodoxi vs. Abbas 97-52.
Jail vs. Fuhais by default.
Hussein vs. Wataani 73-59.
Yarmouk vs. Jail 85-63.
Ahli vs. Hussein 97-70.
Jazireh vs. Abu Nusair 112-20.

Last year, Al Jazireh won the title after a 98-94 win over Al Ahli in overtime. Al Ahli were leading 48-39 at halftime. Al Jazireh had won their first leg match 62-66.

The playoff round will enable JBF officials to single out the U-22 national team as there is an abundance of qualified players in this age-group like Riyadh Ayesha, Ramez Hammoudeh, Mohammad Shamali, Zeid Alkhas, Faisal Nour, Ghaith Ennabi, Yousef Abu Baker, Naser Alawneh, Ma'an Odeh, Ziyad Nabulsi, Naser Bassam, Mahmoud Sha'ban, Ihab Mslh, Mustafa Al Ghoul, Fadi Al Saqqa, Hani Taher and many others.

This week's matches (at Al Ahli court)

*Yarmouk-Ahli Sun 15/8 5 p.m.
Jazireh-Orthodoxi Sun 15/8 6:30 p.m.
*Yarmouk-Orthodoxi Thurs. 17/8 5 p.m.
Ahli-Jazireh Thurs. 17/8 6:30 p.m.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKJ762 ♣KJ8 ♠AQ9
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—Despite the possibility of a misfit, you have a very good hand and unless you inform partner of that, you might never be able to catch up. A jump to three spades describes both the strength of your hand and the quality of your suit.
Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠K1098 ♠AQJ108 ♠3 ♠AK
What is your opening bid?
A.—Although your high-card count is only 20, you are looking at a three-loser hand. To open it with anything other than a demand bid does it a gross injustice. Open two hearts or two clubs, whichever is your forcing two-bid.
Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKJ762 ♠KJ8 ♠AQ9
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—It is a close choice between two hearts and two diamonds. Since your opening bid is minimum and the singleton spade is no asset, we think you should emphasize the quality of your six-card major. Our choice is two hearts.
Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KJ1098 ♠73 ♠6 ♠K542
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—If you considered anything other than two spades, your bidding needs some polishing. Your hand might be worthless to partner at a red-suit contract, but it is going to take at least four tricks with spades as trumps and partner's high cards will produce tricks for you. Bid two spades. That is not forward-going.

will produce tricks for you. Bid two spades. That is not forward-going.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠K7 ♠K10952 ♠AQ ♠72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—Slam prospects are very bright, but you are not yet sure where to play the hand. Since a simple rebid of your suit would be forcing because of partner's jump rebid, just bid three hearts for the moment. That leaves maximum room for further exploration.

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠88 ♠AK984 ♠7 ♠K10983
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

A.—In standard methods a simple two clubs by you would not be forcing because of North's one-suit trump rebid. Since you have a source of tricks in one, if not both of your suits, you are strong enough to insist on game. Jump to three clubs.

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Israeli planes raid Palestinian base near Beirut

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israeli warplanes blasted Palestinian bases south of Beirut on Monday in the second strike against a Palestinian group in the last two weeks.

The fighter planes fired around 12 rockets in a series of raids on a hill above Naameh on the Lebanese coast where the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) has a base, Lebanese police said.

An Israeli army spokesman said planes and helicopters raided targets of the PFLP-GC in Naameh, north of Israel's self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

Pilots reported that the targets were hit. All returned safely to base, the spokesman said.

The half-hour strike started several fires, and black plumes of smoke could be seen from Beirut, 30 kilometres to the north.

There were no immediate reports of casualties from the bombing.

But three motorists driving on the coastal highway were injured in a traffic pileup caused when dozens of people fled their vehicles to take cover from the attack, rescue workers said.

Palestinian fighters cordoned off the region to prevent rescue workers and anyone else from stumbling across unexploded missiles, they said.

A spokesman for the Damascus-based PFLP-GC told Reuters the Israeli jets fired rockets into a medical centre for the group in the hills.

The planes are coming from over the Red Sea, he said, and launched a medical strike against a medical centre. He has no news on the whereabouts of the spokesman.

PFLP-GC fighters fired anti-aircraft weapons at the aircraft which dropped their bombs to avoid guerrilla anti-aircraft missiles, sources said.

The air attack followed an exchange of fire overnight between other Palestinian guerrillas and an Israeli gunboat patrolling off South Lebanon.

The Black September 13 brigades, a small Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) splinter group, claimed responsibility for firing the Israeli boat. It said a guerrilla was wounded in an ensuing clash between the Israeli and Israeli troops, leaving a roadside post in the area.

Kaddoumi demands an immediate halt to self-rule talks

By Oded Gutfeld
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A senior Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) official on Monday called on the Palestinian leadership to halt the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian negotiations and to conduct a comprehensive review of the developments since the signing of the Oslo accords two years ago.

Addressing a press conference in Amman, Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, demanded that the United States formally recognise the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Mr. Kaddoumi, who presented to the press his own programme for peace, said that two years after the signing of the Oslo accords "we are Israel adamant in its position, totally disregarding the deadlines for implementing the provisions of the agreement and failing to honour its commitments concerning the withdrawal of its forces from the West Bank in a clear bid to perpetuate its occupation of Arab lands."

Mr. Kaddoumi said the PLO should be safeguarded as the political and legislative body behind the PNA.

He called for the creation of a PNA of "national personalities" living inside the occupied lands, with the PLO's Executive Committee shouldering the responsibility of negotiations over the final stage with Israel.

Mr. Kaddoumi said that while at the beginning the Europeans supported the

Security sources said the guerrillas fired machineguns after midnight at the Israeli gunboat off Ras Al 'Ain south of the port city of Tyre, 25 kilometres north of the Lebanon-Israel border.

The boat returned fire, they added.

The Israeli navy has been imposing a fishing blockade on most of the southern Lebanese coast since March, barring fishermen from venturing more than one kilometre into the open sea or fishing at night.

The Black September 13 brigades, which is led by colonel Munir Maqdash, said its fighters fired three mortar bombs at an Israeli navy boat off Hamra in Israel's South Lebanon occupation zone and about 7 kilometres south of Ras Al 'Ain.

The group, which opposes the September 1993 PLO-Israeli peace pact, said one of its guerrillas was wounded in an exchange of fire with Israeli forces manning the Hamra post shortly afterwards.

Israeli raids against the PFLP-GC group have left three dead and nine wounded since the start of the year.

Israeli jets blasted a network of caves used by the PFLP-GC at Sultan Yacoub near the Syrian border in eastern Lebanon on Aug. 2, wounding five guerrillas.

In the last Israeli raid on Naameh on Jan. 15, three fighters were killed and four wounded. In 1994 six fighters were killed and five wounded in three Israeli attacks on the base.

An official of the PFLP-GC warned of violent retaliation after the Sultan Yacoub attack and said the Israeli action was aimed against Syria.

"Our response will be violent and swift and will target the enemy where it hurts the most," said Abul Fida, a member of the group's executive committee.

The PFLP-GC, headed by former Syrian officer Ahmad Jibril, is one of 10 hardline groups based in Damascus which fiercely oppose the Arab-Israeli peace process.

It is the only Palestinian organisation to maintain military bases near Beirut. In theory, the Lebanese army dismantled all bases near South Lebanon and the capital in 1992 and only allows Palestinians to carry light arms inside refugee camps.

Christian opposition members in Lebanon have repeatedly asked the government why the PFLP-GC is allowed to maintain its bases but have not received an answer.



OUTDOOR TOURISTS: Young tourists from Eastern Europe still sleep at dawn under the Eiffel Tower. During the current clement weather, less well-off tourists spend the night under the stars on the grass of the Champs de Mars (AFP photo)

Israel steps up pressure against PLO in Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin gave a green light to officials on Monday to take legal action against the Orient House — the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) unofficial Jerusalem headquarters, officials said.

Jerusalem's Israeli mayor, Ehud Olmert, threatened to shut down the Orient House, which he says is illegally being used for offices although it is zoned as a hotel.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal meanwhile called for the closure of all institutions linked to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in East Jerusalem.

Mr. Shahal made his appeal for the government to take a "strong stand" in a meeting of a ministerial committee on Jerusalem presided by Mr. Rabin, said police spokesman Rafi Levy.

He said closure orders would be issued against the institutions which flouted Israeli law and "damage" Israeli "sovereignty" over the Holy City.

Mr. Shahal also came out against visits to the de facto PLO headquarters in East Jerusalem by foreign dignitaries. "Such visits disturb

the peace," he said, referring to protests by Jewish settlers.

The minister said Israel would open two new police stations in East Jerusalem.

Israel sees the Orient House as a symbol of the Palestinian claims to East Jerusalem. Israel insists it will never allow the city to be "redivided," but Palestinians want the eastern part of the city as capital of a future Palestinian state.

Mr. Olmert said he had Mr. Rabin's support to move against the Orient House if it continued to ignore the city's demands that it apply for rezoning.

"The prime minister said he unequivocally supports my actions," Mr. Olmert said. "The Orient House should be closed, and the faster the better for the quiet of Jerusalem."

Orient House officials have refused to apply for a permit, saying that they do not recognise the city's authority since Israel is an occupying power in East Jerusalem.

"We do not recognise Israel's unilateral actions," said Maan Erakat, a spokesman for the Orient House. "They are illegal."

Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein said closing the Orient House was "absurd," and would lead to

"conflict with the world."

Recent protests by right-wing activists outside the Orient House have grown increasingly violent, leading to scuffles with police and a number of arrests.

Mr. Olmert and Mr. Shahal said the PLO's operations in Jerusalem violate the Israel-PLO autonomy agreement, which says the Palestinian government will operate only from the autonomous Gaza Strip and Jericho.

"Any claim that there are national authority institutions in Jerusalem should be raised and discussed at the liaison committee and not used to take direct measures against Palestinian institutions and non-governmental organisations on the pretext they are part of the national authority," the statement said.

Some 160,000 Palestinians live in the eastern sector, which Israel seized in the 1967 Middle East war.

Under the autonomy accords, negotiations on the question of Jerusalem are to begin between Israel and the PLO by next May.

The Palestinian National Authority announced in June that it would reestablish an Arab municipal council for Jerusalem. Israel dissolved the body 28 years ago.

Kuwaitis don't trust defector from Iraq

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaitis view the high-level defector son-in-law of Iraq's President Saddam Hussein with deep hostility because of his Gulf war role, and one member of parliament said he is just "another Saddam."

The people of the small Gulf state remember the defector and military mastermind, Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel Hassan, as a key player in Baghdad's 1990-91 occupation of Kuwait and the disastrous torching of its oil wells.

"They say he should never be allowed to take over from President Saddam. Some Islamist officials want him tried for war crimes."

"He is another Saddam," deputy Adnan Abdul Samad told Reuters on Sunday.

"I do think we should be rather careful. He participated in all of Saddam's decisions and in many ways he is Saddam's student in political affairs," opposition parliamentarian Ismail Al Shatti said in a telephone interview.

"Trusting this man would be both ludicrous and lethal," said Khalidoun Naqis, a Kuwait University sociologist.

"He should be told the most he can look forward to is a plea bargain — earn a lighter sentence by helping topple Saddam."

The general fled to Jordan on Aug. 8 with his brother, Lieutenant-Colonel Saddam Kamel Hassan, who was in charge of President Saddam's guards, and their wives, both daughters of the president.

At a news conference on Saturday, he pleaded Kuwaitis by calling for the overthrow of the Saddam's government but angered them by dismissing the seven-month occupation as history best forgotten.

"This man is presenting himself as an heir apparent but in reality he would be just the new godfather of the same mafia," said Mr. Naqis, whose family is of Iraqi origin.

"What is worse from a democratic standpoint, he is presenting tribal credentials for leadership — his relation to the top power in the state. You can see this in the way he refuses to mention Saddam personally in any negative way. In reality, he is one of a band of cutthroats and murderers."

The Kuwaiti government says it is watching the defections closely but has declined to comment until it has more information.

Newspapers earlier this month said the government was asking experts on international law how to prosecute 648 Iraqis including President Saddam for war crimes at an international tribunal.

The government's move was based on a document published earlier this year by the Research and Studies Centre, a body attached to the cabinet, that listed Gen. Hassan as number four on a list of "Iraqi war criminals."

Iraqi documents captured after the war show the general played a major role in supervising Iraq's military buildup to its 1990 invasion, the looting of Kuwait's armed forces, the blowing up of its oil wells and the scorched earth policy at the end of the occupation.

Kuwaitis say Gen. Hussein was one of a handful of Iraqis who helped formulate President Saddam's invasion plans.

Iraqi opposition groups say he also helped suppress a post-war revolt in southern Iraq with great brutality and was an accomplice in chemical attacks on the Kurdish population in the 1980s. Gen. Hussein denies helping kill anyone.

"If he would like to help the Iraqi opposition, then it might be one way to forgive some of his decisions, but he cannot be a president or a ruler," said Mr. Shatti.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Yemen invites Islamic ministers to meeting

JEDDAH (AP) — The Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) on Monday circulated a Yemeni proposal to host an urgent meeting of Islamic foreign ministers later this month. An OIC spokesman, who could not be named under existing rules, said Yemen wanted the meeting to discuss the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and other issues. He also said the meeting would be convened if two-thirds of the 52 members approved the Yemeni proposal. A Yemeni government newspaper reported in Sanaa that the proposed date for the meeting was Sept. 26.

Clinton, Murayama to meet in Tokyo

TOKYO (AP) — U.S. President Bill Clinton will hold talks with Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama in Tokyo in late November, a Foreign Ministry official said Monday. Vice Foreign Minister Sadayuki Hayashi said the meeting would be on Nov. 20 or 21, after the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum summit in Osaka, Japan on Nov. 19. He told a news conference Mr. Clinton would stay in Japan as a state guest after the APEC meeting.

6 killed in fight over cattle in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — A fight between a Muslim and a Christian farmer over the cost of transporting cattle turned into a sectarian battle between two clans, killing six people and wounding 16. The fight erupted Sunday night in Bilqas northeast of Cairo in the Nile Delta. Egypt's agricultural heartland. The farmer who owned the cattle fought with a pickup driver, who was Muslim. Police did not say how much money the two were fighting over. Members of both their families later got involved, using knives and guns, before police intervened. Four people were wounded seriously and several people were arrested, police said Monday. Egypt's 59 million are predominantly Muslim, and Coptic Christians are the largest religious minority. Sectarian fights flare up periodically, often between large clans. Bilqas is 150 kilometres northeast of Cairo.

Militants kill farmer in South Egypt

ASSIUT (R) — Suspected Muslim militants shot dead a farmer in a cornfield in the southern province of Minya, security sources said on Monday. They said Fathi Mahmoud Mohammad, 60, was killed on Sunday evening as he worked with his son in a field near the town of Mallawi, about 260 kilometres south of Cairo. His son told police he recognised the two gunmen, who are believed to be members of the militant Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah (Islamic Group).

Gunmen attack village in Algeria

ALGIERS (AP) — An armed group attacked a village in the Beni Yenni commune near Tizi Ouzou, in the Kabylie region, the daily papers Liberte and Al Khabar reported Monday. According to Liberte, "several dozen individuals" took young villagers hostage, burnt down the school and went through the village searching for gas bottles, which are used for making homemade bombs. They also made off with some fire extinguishers before releasing the hostages unhurt. Last month, seven armed Muslim activists were killed at Beni-Yenni in the bloodiest clash so far with security forces in the region. The group of about a dozen men had gone to the village of Ait Larbaa with the intention of seizing the villagers' hunting rifles. The villagers countered by alerting police, who blocked all exits from the village. Several villages which have been attacked have formed their own self-defence groups, in response to a call from the Rally for Culture and Democracy (RCD).

COLUMN

More pimps, prostitutes jailed in Beijing

BEIJING (R) — Sixteen Beijing prostitutes and pimps were sentenced to "reeducation through labour" in an escalating crackdown ahead of a high-stakes global women's conference in the capital, local media said Monday. The sentences ranging from 18 months to three years brought to 46 the number of local prostitution defendants sent in 1995 to reeducation camps, an administrative punishment that can be ordered without trial, the official Beijing Daily said. Officials said on Aug. 7 that Beijing police had rounded up 841 people on prostitution charges in the first seven months of 1995. Most were later freed. The operations aim to clean up the capital for the influx of tens of thousands of foreign and Chinese women, including world leaders, at the U.N. World Conference on Women in September and a related forum of grass-roots women's groups from Aug. 30 to Sept. 8. Authorities have raided at least 320 night spots suspected of tolerating or encouraging prostitution, sealing 34 outright and suspending operations at 178. Municipal propaganda chief Qiang Wei said the drive against prostitution will be intensified before the women's meetings, which the communist central government hopes will boost China's global prestige. Socialist puritanism had wiped out most prostitution after China's 1949 communist takeover, but the sex trade has flourished in recent years as 17 years of market reforms have left millions of Chinese flush with cash. Saunas, karaoke bars and dance halls and even roadside diners across China often serve as fronts for brothels, many of them run by police or other officials, state reports said.

House wanted: apply to prince, friend

LONDON (AP) — Prince Edward, youngest son of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, is looking for a home into which to move with his girlfriend Sophie Rhys-Jones, the Daily Mirror reported Monday, predicting a possible royal marriage next summer. The mass-circulation daily cited a royal aide as saying there was "a certain urgency to find a place which the two can move into." Estate agents in Norfolk, in eastern England, have been asked to see what they can come up with, the paper said. A Norfolk location would enable the couple to live close to the royal residence at Sandringham. Last month an Anglican church dignitary was sniffling disapproving of the "apparent cohabitation" of the prince and his companion at Buckingham Palace. The newspaper's accredited royal-watcher James Whitaker said he had asked the prince when he envisaged marrying Rhys-Jones during a stopover of the royal yacht Britannia in the north of Scotland. The prince laughingly informed him, he said, that it was "none of (his) business." The date of a possible marriage was "for us to decide," Prince Edward offered Mr. Whitaker a few comments on the marital difficulties of his elder brothers Charles and Andrew, both of whom are separated from their spouses. "Charles and Andrew never had a chance with their marriages. It was hopeless for them from the beginning."

'Cannibal' tree tribe discovered

JAKARTA (AP) — A primitive tribe, thought to practice cannibalism, has been discovered living naked in the trees of Indonesia's easternmost island of Irian Jaya, according to press reports Monday. The Antara news agency quoted a local elder as saying that a primitive tribe, living in three houses, were sighted in an area straddling the Kurima sub-regency and the Agata sub-regency in the regency of Merauke. "They are still living naked and live in trees," Arnold Tangkudung, the head of the Kurima, was quoted as saying. He added that he believed the tribe has had no previous contact with the outside world and was still practising cannibalism. The huge Indonesian province of Irian Jaya which neighbours Papua New Guinea is covered by mountainous jungle with many areas barely accessible.

Iran, S. CAPE TOWN (A) in Iran's affairs. Tuesday after clashing with countries outside United States, between Pretoria and the oil empires. But fortunately, Velayati said, the Iranian social and economic cooperation and development could establish strong ties as a gateway to the Soviet Union and

Volume 19 Ex-senator passes away

AMMAN (Petra) Speaker Ahmad al-Sayid announced Tuesday the passing of former Senator Sheikh Hamud Fawaz. Mr. Fawaz had died after a long illness, he said.

Assad meets

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Syrian President Hafez Assad met Egyptian President Mubarak Monday to review the results of a joint committee for the reconstruction of the Golan Heights, a presidential spokesman said. Jordanian President King Hussein also met with Assad. Premier Mahmoud al-Nasr presented the demands of the committee to the Syrian cabinet. The committee was set up by the two presidents to coordinate reconstruction work in the Golan Heights. The committee also discussed the situation in the Golan Heights and the need for international cooperation in the reconstruction of the area.

PLO-trained officers enter

GAZA CITY (AFP) — A group of PLO police officers arrived Monday from Amman to take part in a series of patrols with the Israeli army. The officers were part of a PLO training programme in the Gaza Strip. The training was organized by the Israeli army and the PLO. The officers will be responsible for maintaining law and order in the Gaza Strip. The training programme is part of a broader effort to build up the PLO's security forces. The Israeli army has been providing training and equipment to the PLO for several years. The training is aimed at improving the PLO's ability to maintain law and order in the Gaza Strip. The Israeli army has also been providing training to the PLO in the use of firearms and other weapons. The training is part of a broader effort to build up the PLO's security forces. The Israeli army has been providing training and equipment to the PLO for several years. The training is aimed at improving the PLO's ability to maintain law and order in the Gaza Strip.

Yediot refuses surrender picture

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli newspaper Yediot Aharanot refused Tuesday to print a picture of a dead Jewish settler from a dead-end Jewish settlers and Palestinians in the West Bank. The newspaper said it did not want to print a picture of a dead settler. The picture was taken by a Palestinian photographer. The settler was killed in a clash with Palestinian fighters. The picture was part of a series of photographs showing the deaths of Jewish settlers. The newspaper said it did not want to print a picture of a dead settler. The picture was taken by a Palestinian photographer. The settler was killed in a clash with Palestinian fighters. The picture was part of a series of photographs showing the deaths of Jewish settlers. The newspaper said it did not want to print a picture of a dead settler. The picture was taken by a Palestinian photographer. The settler was killed in a clash with Palestinian fighters. The picture was part of a series of photographs showing the deaths of Jewish settlers.

Israel extends Gaza closure

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel extended a closure of the Gaza Strip for another 24 hours until Thursday afternoon, the army said Tuesday. The closure was imposed after reports of a possible attack on the Gaza Strip. The Israeli army said it was necessary to maintain the closure to ensure the safety of the settlers. The closure was part of a broader effort to maintain law and order in the Gaza Strip. The Israeli army has been providing training and equipment to the PLO for several years. The training is aimed at improving the PLO's ability to maintain law and order in the Gaza Strip. The Israeli army has also been providing training to the PLO in the use of firearms and other weapons. The training is part of a broader effort to build up the PLO's security forces. The Israeli army has been providing training and equipment to the PLO for several years. The training is aimed at improving the PLO's ability to maintain law and order in the Gaza Strip.

China frees protesters

BONN (AP) — All 11 anti-nuclear protesters arrested in a demonstration in Beijing Tuesday have been freed and are in a hotel in the Chinese capital, the German foreign ministry said Tuesday. The last eight protesters were being held in a prison in Beijing. The protesters were arrested after they demonstrated against the construction of a nuclear power plant. The protesters said they were being held in a prison. The German foreign ministry said it was pleased that the protesters had been freed. The ministry said it was also pleased that the protesters were being held in a hotel. The protesters were arrested after they demonstrated against the construction of a nuclear power plant. The protesters said they were being held in a prison. The German foreign ministry said it was pleased that the protesters had been freed. The ministry said it was also pleased that the protesters were being held in a hotel. The protesters were arrested after they demonstrated against the construction of a nuclear power plant. The protesters said they were being held in a prison. The German foreign ministry said it was pleased that the protesters had been freed. The ministry said it was also pleased that the protesters were being held in a hotel.